

Public give police and ambulances quiet strike day

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

Police and voluntary services yesterday ensured that troops did not have to be called in to provide emergency cover in London during an unofficial strike by most of the city's 2,300 ambulances.

Police vans, St John's and the Red Cross ambulances, with 412 emergency calls, a reduction from the average 740 on a normal day, thanks to the successful appeals to the public and doctors to think long and hard before dialling 999.

Shop stewards are to meet tomorrow to consider further all-out strike action after winning support yesterday from crews at 61 of London's 76 ambulance stations.

Troops with 50 army ambulances were stationed at three London barracks but by yesterday evening police had not had to call on them.

Yesterday appeared an unusually quiet day for the ambulance service, the biggest in the world, covering a population of eight million.

Accident calls were reduced to 165 from a normal figure of about 245.

The main, though less dramatic, impact was on between 7,000 and 8,000 out-patients whom senior ambulance officers estimated to have missed hospital appointments because of the action.

Mr John Moss, chief operations officer of the London Ambulance Service, said: "I think the situation has been contained. This has been largely due to the media and appeals to the public to think before making an emergency call."

Mr Moss said that "for a matter of five minutes I held my breath" after a call to deal with an explosion at Fulham power station, in Townsmen Road. "In the event there were no people injured and it was a matter of firemen dousing things down."

The London convenors' nine-man committee had promised that they would allow normal working in the case of a disaster.

Mr Terence Pettifer, vice-chairman of the committee, said last night that senior shop stewards had been greatly encouraged by support for the stoppage, which he estimated at close to 90 per cent. It would be for the meeting of 76 shop stewards tomorrow to decide on any extension of the action.

Police also took over when ambulances in Tayside and Ayrshire staged the fourth 24-hour stoppage in Scotland within a week. In Dumfries, however, ambulances ignored the unofficial strike call.

Senior union leaders, who warned London ambulance men that yesterday's 24-hour all-out stoppage did not have official backing, are expected to hold exploratory talks at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service tomorrow after outright rejection of the Government's offer of 6 per cent for this year or 7.5 per cent over 15 months.

That is the day on which all 17,000 of the country's ambulance men have been called on to back an official 24-hour ban on all work except accidents, maternity assistance and other emergency calls.

Mr Pettifer last night criticized union leaders for calling tomorrow's stoppage, which he said might provoke ambulance authorities into suspending ambulance men. The call could lead to a situation out of control of the unions and which would not be in the interests of the service.

Ambulance men in Birmingham, Swindon, Wiltshire, West Sussex and Grimsby have indicated that they are unlikely to take part in tomorrow's stoppage, while by contrast those in Scotland and West Yorkshire have said they will defy union advice by not even handling emergency calls.

Stations at which ambulance men worked normally were East Ham, Chase Farm, Fonders End, Edmondston, Tottenham and Round Green in the north-east, Hanwell, Greenford, Brentford and East Barnet in the north-west, and Chelsea, Westminster, Morden, and Twickenham in the south and west. Surrey ambulance men also declined to join the stoppage.



Shirt-sleeved control officers and a doctor at London's ambulance control room yesterday.

Crisis controllers keep cool

By Richard Ford

The atmosphere at the nerve centre of the London ambulance service yesterday was cool, despite the strike action which left most of the capital without normal emergency cover.

There was no sign of anxiety or panic in the air-conditioned first-floor control room a few hundred yards from Waterloo station; nor was there a hint of anger among the control officers about their striking colleagues.

The 30 officers, immaculate in white shirts and dark uniforms, are veterans at dealing with crises. They have to take emergency decisions concerning life and death many times during a normal working day.

Yesterday was different, not only because of the action by the ambulance men, but also because of the steady stream of journalists wanting to see how the service was coping. Despite that, the loudest sound was the murmur of voices taking emergency telephone calls from every part of the capital.

The officers sat at three banks of switchboards below a huge map of London. As red lights flashed on the banks, indicating an emergency call, the officers answered, and then filled out a form and sent it to a controller.

His job was to alert an ambulance to go to the emergency. If there was not an ambulance in the area because of yesterday's action he passed the call on to Scotland Yard, to be dealt with by police, the Red Cross or St John Ambulance.

From time to time a control officer waved a pink slip in the air—an indicator to a duty doctor that he was needed for a second opinion on the urgency of the call.

In some cases callers had to be told there was a strike taking place. One wanted a plaster cast loosened and was told politely but firmly, that it could wait.

Dr Howard Baderman, aged 43, a consultant at the University College Hospital, walked shirt-sleeved round the room, his eyes alert for the pink cards showing that he was needed.

"We have had a series of elderly, bedridden patients, some of whom had fallen out of bed during the night, and they may in some cases have broken bones," he said.

"There have been two elderly patients who have terminal cancer and have rapidly deteriorated during the night, and a psychiatric patient who has been sitting in his group-practitioner's since six this morning. The doctor has been doing everything to find alternative transport for him and we will see what we can do."

Across the capital, at Camden ambulance station, in Cressy Road, the largest in the country, the telephone was also busy in the office of Mr Terence Pettifer, vice-chairman of the London Ambulance Service convenors' committee.

Mr Pettifer, an ambulance man for 11 years, sat at his desk overlooking the inside of the station, surveying the rows of immobile ambulances.

He told one caller from another station, "Thank you for your support and tell the men they have been marvellous. Remember to tell them that it is they who have made all this possible."

Outside, a group of ambulance men were on picket duty. None was in any doubt about the justice of the cause, although, as Mr Harry Seal, who has been in the service since 1952, said, if there is a major disaster our bosses know what will be there. "We couldn't just stand by. That's what the job is all about."

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Jailbreak: solicitors' detention criticized

From Christopher Thomas, Belfast

The detention of three solicitors after eight prisoners shot their way out of Crumlin Road jail, Belfast, on Wednesday, was criticized by the Council of the Law Society of Northern Ireland yesterday. The three men were released after 48 hours without charge.

A statement issued after a special council meeting said: "It is essential for the proper maintenance of the rule of law that there should be not only mutual confidence and respect between lawyers and police, but that lawyers should be able to represent all sections of the public without fear or favour."

"While the right and power of the police to investigate crime is fully accepted, it is a matter of the utmost concern and regret to the council that the police considered it necessary to invoke the powers invested in them."

The RUC said last night: "We only arrest whom we think necessary. We are entitled to do so."

Patrick Quinn, aged 29, from Belleek, south Antrim, refused to give his name to the RUC yesterday, bringing the number of republicans on hunger strike to six.

He is serving 14 years for the attempted murder of members of the security forces.

Leaders of Ulster's peace movement, Mr. Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday, in a new attempt to break the H-block deadlock (the Press Association reports).

Miss Mary McCarrigan, one of the peace movement leaders, said before the meeting: "We are making a double appeal to the Government and to those involved in the hunger strike to find a way out."

The army defused a 600 lb bomb at Craigavon, Armagh, yesterday (the Press Association reports). The explosion was in a beer keg inside a van at a filling station.

MPs asked for jury safeguard

By Our Political Staff

Parliament is to be asked today to vote to confirm the traditional secrecy of the jury room.

An amendment to the Contempt of Court Bill, now before the Commons, would provide that it will be a contempt to obtain, disclose or solicit particulars of statements, opinions, arguments or votes of members of a jury in the course of their deliberations.

The amendment, which was drafted by the Criminal Bar Association, is to be moved by Mr Edward Gardner, QC, Conservative MP for South Fylde, who is a Crown Court recorder.

It is understood to have the approval of Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice.

Mr Gardner told *The Times* last night that the Bill at present made it possible for anyone to interview any juror and publish his findings without any restriction on the law.

"I feel very strongly that there should be the strictest control over the ability of people to approach members of a jury, before or after a trial, to see what goes on in the jury room."

He added that the amendment would allow bona fide researchers to publish their findings with the consent of the Attorney General.

A pilot was killed last night when his glider crashed into a shed in a council house garden in Maple Grove, Stratford-on-Avon. A child in the garden was cut by flying glass.

A Pakistani woman who faced deportation because her marriage turned out to be invalid was granted a stay of deportation yesterday.

A petition with more than 2,500 signatures has been lodged with the Home Office in her behalf by five of her members of the Shadow Cabinet, have called on the Home Secretary to drop his appeal.

Mr David Birkis, representing Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said it did not alter the case whether or not the woman, Mrs Nasira Begum, knew at the time she married that her husband had another wife.

"She has one claim (to stay in Britain) and one claim only, marriage," he said. "If her marriage is not a marriage, she has no claim."

Any compassionate grounds were not sufficient to outweigh the public interest in not permitting those who deliberately overstayed to remain in this country, he said.

The Home Office is contesting the decision of an immigration appeals adjudicator who ruled last July that Mrs Begum should be allowed to stay.

Mr Birkis told the London tribunal that Mrs Begum, had no spouse to lose, as her marriage broke up within weeks of her taking place; she had no children, and would not be losing a home or family.

It was also extremely difficult to accept, he said, that she did not know when she arranged marriage took place that the man, Mohammed Afzal, who is a British citizen, was already married.

About twenty supporters of Mrs Begum, many from her home town, Manchester, demon-

Claim that more curbs on unions would fail

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The task of Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, of reconciling the growing political conflict over trade union legislation was complicated yesterday by a joint management-union claim that more law would be counterproductive.

The Industrial Society, an independent body representing both sides of industry, told the minister: "Legislation will not help us solve the problems and may distract from them and exacerbate them."

In general the management-union body, which claims "enormous practical experience over wide areas of British industry", argues that the Employment Act, 1980, represents an "important change in labour law and should be allowed time to operate before any new legislation is contemplated."

Changing the law so that trade union funds would be at risk for unlawful activities by officials or members would not result in more responsible behaviour by trade unions, the society argues.

"In any event it could be self-defeating action, taking a legislative decision to crack the 10 per cent limit of official action while doing nothing to help, and perhaps exacerbating, the 90 per cent of unofficial action."

Responsible employers are unlikely to resort to the courts to obtain substantial damages from trade unions with whom they have long-term relationships.

The statement will fuel the controversy between the two sides of the unions. It gives embarrassing support to Mr Prior's argument that there should be no more legislation on the unions until the 1980 union law is "worked itself through."

The minister is under pressure from Conservative backbenchers and some of his Cabinet colleagues to introduce a new Bill on union law early in the next session of Parliament, and his department's efforts have been directed towards minimizing the area for such legislation.

At most, it is thought, there could be further curbs on the closed shop and "secondary action" by trade unionists in support of other workers on strike.

The Industrial Society believes that the Government's 1980 Act has "gone too far" on provisions for immunity for secondary industrial action in trade disputes. "We feel very strongly that it would be foolish to change a law that has been a significant change and has not been tested."

On picketing, the society calls: "The proposals of the Green Paper largely revolve round a greater role for the police. Since even the police do not appear to wish this, it is most undesirable."

"From the practical point of view, companies have stated that the major problem of involving the police in industrial matters is that once started a strike, it is not easily stopped. It is after the dispute has been settled a court hearing can open up all the old wounds."

The society suggests that secret balloting will not necessarily lead to fewer days being lost through official strikes, though it would not touch the far more damaging area of days lost through unofficial action.

Legislation which is bound to be seen as provocative by trade unionists is not worth the cost. But if the Government is convinced of the use of the secret ballot as an aid to industrial relations, it might consider extending those measures into the public sector.

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New safeguards on animal exports criticized

By Hugh Clayton, Agriculture Correspondent

Government plans to strengthen safeguards against cruelty to exported livestock have been dismissed as inadequate by the animal welfare movement. Two of the largest welfare groups have decided to continue their demands for a ban on livestock exports after seeing two proposed government orders that offer extra protection.

The two groups are the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, one of the largest animal charities in the world, and the Farm Animal Welfare Coordinating Executive, an umbrella organization of 12 welfare groups.

They are concerned about the lack of controls in a trade that has grown fast since Britain entered the EEC and is estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to be worth £100 million a year to farmers and dealers. Farm animals exported live from Britain last year included 370,000 cattle, 292,000 sheep and 298,000 pigs.

Commander Frank Milner, head of the special investigations section of the RSPCA, said yesterday: "The whole thing boils down to a lack of policing. We have found that there is no one to turn to for help when they journey on to goodness knows where. There is nobody out there doing any checking except our people. We have found that the beginning and our views have not changed."

Last week RSPCA staff had followed a consignment of calves which were not given water for almost 30 hours. "You would not dream of leaving a calf on a farm for 30 hours without sustenance", Commander Milner said.

Mr Robin Corbett, chairman of the coordinating executive, said: "We are still opposed to the trade because of the seeming unwillingness to enforce the regulations that do exist."

The Government has tried to find a path through the deeply opposed positions of the welfare and farming lobbies. Some sectors of British agriculture are becoming increasingly dependent on the export trade, especially since the end of the lamb war with France last year.

Lord Ferrers, Minister of State for Agriculture, has issued a list of proposed new safeguards for animals sent by air and sea.

The Government proposes to reduce from 40 to 30 the maximum number of adult cattle which can be kept in pens before shipment. A further new rule would require the owners of yards where animals were kept before shipment to declare on an official certificate that the animals had been properly rested for at least 10 hours.

The Government intends to force the export of any animal within 48 hours of its giving birth and to extend to aircraft the law which forbids the transport of animals in rough weather.

The ministry explained that further protection would be applied when an EEC directive about the welfare of travelling livestock was brought into British law. A spokesman admitted that with the new safeguards there would be no independent official supervision of animals on board ship.

"It would not be possible to have a ministry person or a local authority person on the boat. But the EEC directive will say what conditions the animals will be in before they left."

Manuscripts commission 'too old'

The Government reluctantly published yesterday a long-delayed report recommending that the Government should make the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts reform its membership and working practices within five years if it should be abolished.

The document, completed in April, 1980, by Mr Daniel Caplan, former under-secretary at the Department of the Environment, was released only after Mr Caplan made a statement to The Times about his suspicion that the royal commissioners were trying to have the report suppressed. Mr Caplan, who is now a Member of Parliament for Wiltshire, North-east, put down a parliamentary question about it.

The Royal Commissioners, who meet under the chairmanship of Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, have added their own comments dissenting from some of his findings. The Caplan report charges the 17 royal commissioners with being a "self-perpetuating body" containing too great a proportion of elderly people, meeting too rarely (twice a year) to help to protect the country's private archives and advise the Government on policy.

Mr Caplan recommends that commissioners should be appointed for five years only, should retire at 75 and should meet more frequently. He also urges that the bar on professional archivists becoming royal commissioners should be lifted.

He royal commissioners refused to comment on Mr Caplan's remarks about themselves, but criticized his call for the development of a new national archives policy over the next five years as "beyond the realm of practical possibility."

The Government accepted that the royal commission should survive in a parliamentary answer on February 12. The Civil Service Department yesterday dissociated itself from Mr Caplan's views.

Independent Review of the Work of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts—Report by Mr D. Caplan, April 1980. Civil Service Department, Old Admiralty Building, Whitehall, London SW1.

Appeal court clears chemist in prescription fraud case

A chemist given a 30-month jail sentence for alleged involvement with two doctors in a prescription fraud, was cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday. The doctors, also given jail terms after pleading guilty to a plot to defraud Brent and Harrow Area Health Authority, had their sentences reduced and suspended, with the addition of fines.

The chemist, Sydney Solly Frankel, aged 40, of St Johns Wood, London, had his conspiracy conviction quashed and his sentence set aside.

Mr Frankel was jailed at the Central Criminal Court in April last year. He was allowed his appeal costs out of public funds.

Mr Barry Michaels, aged 46, of Brim Hill, East Finchley, and Dr Max Skoblov, of Orchard Avenue, Finchley, had their 18-month sentences cut to four months and suspended for a year, and were each fined £1,000. All three had been jailed pending appeal.

Lord Justice Eveleigh, sitting with Mr Justice Kilner-

Scarman tribunal on Brixton disorders

Police operation preceded riots, inquiry told



Demonstrators against the Scarman inquiry outside Lambeth Town Hall yesterday.

An intensive police operation aimed at combating burglary and theft was carried out in Brixton, south London, the week before riots left a "devastated and burning battle area", the Scarman inquiry was told on its first day yesterday.

At Lambeth Town Hall Mr Robin Auld, QC, leading counsel for the inquiry, outlined the events of April 10, 11, and 12 and said the hearing's terms of reference were to inquire into the events of that weekend and phase two with the policing of Brixton and areas like it.

Those represented by counsel at the inquiry, he said, were the Railton Road Youth and Community Centre, the Melting Pot Foundation, Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association, Brixton Domino Club, the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police, community relations workers in Lambeth, and Concern.

Rioting went on for more than five hours on a line running from Brixton Road down Coldharbour Lane and Atlantic Road to the streets around Railton Road and Mayall Road, he said.

"Streets became ablaze with the fires of buildings and overturned vehicles set alight by the crowds. Shops, pubs and private houses were set alight and stripped and looted."

"Many have been injured, including police, who engaged in the fighting and bystanders. Some people were seriously injured, but fortunately none was dead."

Mr Auld said the trouble started on Friday, April 10, when from 6.30 to 7.30 there was serious street violence in Atlantic Road, Railton Road and adjoining streets, when a crowd of about 100 youths, mainly black, attacked police and drove away a police van and other vehicles.

The crowd was gradually dispersed by thirty to forty officers. The next day violence broke out again at 5 pm, this time on a vast and devastating scale.

Trouble broke out again at 5 pm on Sunday and continued until midnight. Serious rioting involving about two hundred youths took place outside Lambeth Town Hall. This time the trouble spread over a much wider area.

Well over 20 per cent and possibly 30 per cent of Lambeth's population was black, mainly of West Indian origin. The older generation were often content to put up with poor housing, but their children reasonably expected more from society.

Unemployment among Brixton blacks was nearly three times higher than for whites. By 1979 Brixton had more robberies than any other London area and by early 1980 it was worse. In the first seven weeks of 1980 there was a 78 per cent increase in robberies over the previous year, compared with 12 per cent for all of London. Burglaries were up 75 per cent and there was a 115 per cent increase in snatch thefts compared with 1978.

Mr Auld said: "Complaints have been made about the youth of the behaviour of the police". Mr Auld said the "sus" law was on the way out, the stop and search provisions available under the Metropolitan Police Act were regarded by the police as necessary and useful. The Special Patrol Group, although not used in the riot, was feared by the community.

Turning to the riots, Mr Auld said they may have been triggered on the Friday night when a black youth was stabbed. Two police officers who noticed the youth named Bailey, being taken to hospital in a van, ordered the vehicle to stop and radioed for an ambulance.

They believed the youth had a punctured lung and gave him first aid. One officer pressed down on a back wound to stem the flow of blood. The youth, said Mr Auld, was not seriously injured.

A crowd of up to fifty youths, mainly black, pulled Mr Bailey from the car saying: "We will look after our own". He was taken to hospital in a stranger's car.

Trouble flared again that night after police arrested a black youth who had thrown a missile at a police van and injured an officer. The next day Brixton was alive with tension and with rumours that the youth who was taken to hospital had died.

Saturday night's violence began in Atlantic Road when a mini-car driver was questioned by two policemen. A group arrived and a man, aged 24, called on the officers to leave the driver alone. Officers alleged that the man pushed one of them and he was arrested. A growing crowd swayed the van.

The violence erupted 35 minutes later. A police van was overturned with other vehicles. Police were facing groups both in front and at the rear. The officer in charge Chief Supt Boyling ordered his men to beat truncheons and charge the youths.

There was ample evidence to suggest the use of petrol bombs was spontaneous, Mr Auld said. Two public houses were set on fire, and by the time police arrived the mob was looting shops and premises in Railton Road. The hostility and aggression shown towards fire and ambulance services were without precedent, Mr Auld said.

Mr Stuart Lansley, a Lambeth councillor, appealed to the police to disperse but Commander Fairburn was not prepared to concede a no-go area.

In Railton Road Chief Supt Robinson's men met the fiercest attacks. "Just about everything was thrown at the officers, bricks, bottles, tyres, milk crates, scaffolding poles and similar missiles."

There was some evidence that many of the looters had been involved in the riots. Among other offences that night were serious assaults, robbery, rape, damage to property and theft.

After five hours the riot subsided. Sunday morning was relatively quiet, but trouble flared again in the afternoon.

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Chief Francis Nzeribe, the Nigerian millionaire businessman who intends to set up new industries in Brixton, yesterday foresaw the Government investing in it.

Talks with ministers and civil servants had left him "confident that if the wrong conditions we will get the money we need from the Government."

He said that in reply to a letter of his, Mrs Margaret Thatcher had welcomed the rescue programme and had encouraged him to go on with it. The Government's reaction was very positive, he said, and he wanted to look at more details.

Chief Nzeribe is putting up £1m for the project and announced at a press conference in Brixton yesterday that with pledges from other subscribers the total already available was £2.2m.

The subscribers include two white people who wanted to remain anonymous and a black businessman in the United States which had agreed to contribute £250,000.

Mr Levi Unam, one of several other Nigerian businessmen in Brixton, said he had known Chief Nzeribe since childhood. Mr Unam, who has pledged £250,000, describes his business as "general trading"—importing, exporting and insurance.

Chief Nzeribe said he was returning donations from 800 people who had not realized that strictly a business venture was planned. Their response had been understandably emotional. The private company he had in mind could have only a certain number of subscribers.

The Government was being invited to be one of the shareholders to whom profits would go. "I am not asking for a grant or donations, but asking them to invest."

The launching of the project, called the Rescue Industries Centre, would cost about £10m.

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Science report

Keeping step ahead of the bugs

By the Staff of "Nature"

Alexander Fleming, in that almost mythical story, discovered penicillin when a few fragments of fungus, producing penicillin molecules, landed on his dish of bacteria and killed them.

But most antibiotics are produced not by fungi but by bacteria. Now new groups of microbiologists, in Osaka and in Princeton, New Jersey, have independently discovered certain penicillin-like substances which are indeed produced by bacteria.

The discovery is more than a curiosity. Bacteria go through many generations very quickly and are able to evolve means to avoid or destroy the antibiotics that man sends in large concentrations to attack them. New antibiotics, however, are being sought to keep one step ahead of the bugs.

The new molecules, called monobactams by the Americans, are such a step. They should be able to slip past the defences of bugs which have developed resistance to penicillin and cephalosporin, another important fungus-produced antibiotic.

Exactly how the monobactams work is not known, but they share a certain active molecular kernel with penicillin and cephalosporin—a ring of four atoms called a beta-lactam ring.

But which can destroy penicillin and cephalosporin do so by snipping the beta-lactam ring open, but in the monobactams the ring appears to be resistant to attack. This must be because of the way in which the beta-lactam ring is stitched into the complete molecule.

However, the monobactams discovered so far are not quite such efficient killers as penicillin, so the race will now be on to produce slightly modified monobactams that are more active but are still resistant to attack on the beta-lactam group. Pharmaceutical companies are familiar with this black art of molecular juggling, which depends on a mixture of luck and good judgment, rather than science.

The Americans and Japanese were based in such companies as E. R. Squibb in the United States, and Takeda Chemical Industries in Japan, and the Americans are claiming that they have a modified monobactam with a highly stable beta-lactam and enhanced activity.

That monobactam is being prepared for clinical trial. It will be interesting to see whether it can conquer with some new cephalosporin derivatives recently on the market which, it is claimed, have also felled the beta-lactam snipers.

Source: *Nature*, June 11 (vol 289, no 488). ©Nature-Times News Service, 1981.

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Faults found in Whitehall system of cutting jobs

By Peter Hennessy

Serious shortcomings in staff inspection methods used by the Civil Service Department for cutting manpower were made public yesterday in a memorandum prepared by Sir Douglas Henley, Comptroller and Auditor General, Parliament's spending watchdog. The document was released by the Commons Public Accounts Committee.

An investigation conducted by members of Sir Douglas's exchequer and audit department showed a marked drop in the number of posts recommended for abolition from 4,400 in 1977 to 2,500 in 1978. Of the 1978 quota only 37 per cent were implemented.

Sir Douglas's team also discovered that the three-year inspection cycle of departmental posts was not being achieved. A number of departments had slipped the rate to which staff inspection had slumped in the late 1970s, would take between seven and 28 years to complete their cycles.

Sir John Herbec, Second Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department, appearing before the Public Accounts Committee, accepted the gist of Sir Douglas's findings. He said that the department had conducted a review of staff inspection procedures in 1979-80 and matters had improved.

In 1980 staff inspectors earmarked 4,100 jobs for removal, of which three quarters had been implemented.

Sir Douglas's memorandum said the quality of staff inspectors should be improved and they should be subject to greater direction. "The Civil Service Department should restore its lost impetus for improving the standard and effectiveness of staff inspection across the service."

The Church Commissioners have found no suitable way of relieving the Church of England of the burden of supporting large and ancient bishop's palaces, despite the trend towards more modest accommodation for diocesan bishops.

Their annual report states today that they have a moral and legal responsibility to maintain these buildings because of their historic and architectural interest.

The 11 palaces or castles occupied by bishops, in addition to Lambeth Palace, are a main item of expenditure.

"Contrary to popular belief, most bishops do not live in a palace, let alone a castle," the report states. Half the houses occupied by diocesan bishops were bought or built since 1945, "and are often no more than large suburban houses".

They point out that most of the palaces now also house the diocesan offices, and in some cases other uses have been found for part of the space, to spread the cost.

The annual report states that the commissioners' total income increased in 1980 by 15.8 per cent compared with 1979, but the retail price index of 15.1 per cent. It draws attention to the possibility that that favourable situation may be more difficult to maintain in the future.

They raise the contribution that ordinary church members are making to the support of the clergy, which in the year under review amounted to 34 per cent of the total cost, a record proportion.

Police assaulted me in cell, man claims

From Arthur Osman, Solihull

A North Wales horse breeder who told magistrates at Solihull, West Midlands, yesterday that he was assaulted a year ago by a sergeant in the town's police station, claimed he had been advised to complain about it by a magistrates' clerk.

Mr Graham Aston, aged 47, of Lichfield Drive, Mariner Park, Prestatyn, Clwyd, claimed that Police Sergeant Donald Williams, of West Midlands police, hit him in the face through a trap in the cell door after he had asked for some valium tablets.

The sergeant, aged 30, of Dordon Close, Solihull, denies assault, occasioning actual bodily harm.

Mr Aston said he had been arrested at Prestatyn last June in connexion with a parking offence.

After he had been fined £15, he said, the magistrates' clerk allowed him from the court and asked how he had received a mark on his face just below the right eye.

The clerk had said: "This has happened here. Someone has been on the phone to Prestatyn and they confirmed you had no injuries when you left and the two officers who fetched you have said that when they delivered you you had no marks on you. A chief inspector would like to have a word with you."

Mr Aston, who said he made a statement to the clerk about the alleged assault, agreed that he had a number of convictions for dishonesty and false pretences, and said: "I have been in police cells before and I have never had anything like this happen. I have always been treated very fairly by the police. Everyone has their jobs to do."

He told the magistrates that he had not made a complaint at the time "because, to be honest, I was frightened. I thought if I did not keep quiet I might get some more."

Mr Aston challenged the right of Mr Michael Morris, for the defence, to read out his criminal record, but agreed about various convictions between 1943 and 1978. He complained to the magistrates: "This man has my police record, which is nothing to do with my case here. He has prejudiced me and I think it is wrong."

Mr Christopher Jones, for the prosecution, alleged that Sergeant Williams, who has been suspended from duty since January, had refused to give Mr Aston his valium tablets.

Mr Aston shouted something at him through the trap in the cell door and it was claimed that the sergeant returned and without provocation punched Mr Aston in the face.

Superintendent Derek Owen, of West Midlands police, said that Sergeant Williams had denied the assault and said: "In my opinion Aston has told malicious lies."

The superintendent said he knew nothing about alleged conversations concerning brutality in the cells or that there had been much of it going on. Another witness, Inspector William Guest, who took a statement from Mr Aston after he had made his complaint, also denied any knowledge about such a conversation.

The case continues today.

control which her Majesty displayed throughout (Renewed cheers).

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab), said he expected the review of the Opposition that neither the Queen nor any of the other participants in or observers of the Trooping the Colour ceremony was a result of the incident last Saturday.

"I would associate Opposition with Mr Whiteley's expression of concern for the Queen's safety," he said.

The Opposition wishes to applaud and support her own view that the day must never come when the Queen cannot walk freely among the people of the United Kingdom.

Such a policy may involve personal danger but we look to the Home Secretary to ensure that the risks involved are kept to a minimum and that the Queen is not exposed to unnecessary danger.

Mr Whiteley has reminded the House that last Saturday's incident is now sub judice. I hope that the Home Secretary will broadcast about it will remember that piece of wise advice.

We shall look sympathetically at any proposals about tighter controls of firearms, real or replica, in the United Kingdom.

Mr Whiteley: I am pleased that Mr Hattersley's speech is widely held in this House and throughout the country, that the Queen's duties require her to be seen and heard, and that the move to move her away from the public is not a move away from her people.

I am also grateful to Mr Hattersley for his view that it is the Government's duty to ensure that the Queen is not exposed to unnecessary danger.

Of course, the main problem is to distinguish between realistic limitations and the millions of harmless children's toys.

Mr Hattersley also referred to the phrase sub judice. I am conscious that there are many who would not wish to see a failure to preserve a rule of such importance. I have no intention of giving them an opportunity to express criticism of the Government.

We shall move forward on the question of real and replica firearms on the basis that we can have a wide measure of agreement in the House.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party (Kosburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, Lib), also spoke.

PARLIAMENT June 15 1981

Urgent review of law on replica firearms

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"I would associate Opposition with Mr Whiteley's expression of concern for the Queen's safety," he said.

The Opposition wishes to applaud and support her own view that the day must never come when the Queen cannot walk freely among the people of the United Kingdom.

Such a policy may involve personal danger but we look to the Home Secretary to ensure that the risks involved are kept to a minimum and that the Queen is not exposed to unnecessary danger.

Mr Whiteley has reminded the House that last Saturday's incident is now sub judice. I hope that the Home Secretary will broadcast about it will remember that piece of wise advice.

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I am also grateful to Mr Hattersley for his view that it is the Government's duty to ensure that the Queen is not exposed to unnecessary danger.

Of course, the main problem is to distinguish between realistic limitations and the millions of harmless children's toys.

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Burden of bishops' palaces

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Church Commissioners have found no suitable way of relieving the Church of England of the burden of supporting large and ancient bishop's palaces, despite the trend towards more modest accommodation for diocesan bishops.

Their annual report states today that they have a moral and legal responsibility to maintain these buildings because of their historic and architectural interest.

The 11 palaces or castles occupied by bishops, in addition to Lambeth Palace, are a main item of expenditure.

"Contrary to popular belief, most bishops do not live in a palace, let alone a castle," the report states. Half the houses occupied by diocesan bishops were bought or built since 1945, "and are often no more than large suburban houses".

They point out that most of the palaces now also house the diocesan offices, and in some cases other uses have been found for part of the space, to spread the cost.

The annual report states that the commissioners' total income increased in 1980 by 15.8 per cent compared with 1979, but the retail price index of 15.1 per cent. It draws attention to the possibility that that favourable situation may be more difficult to maintain in the future.

They raise the contribution that ordinary church members are making to the support of the clergy, which in the year under review amounted to 34 per cent of the total cost, a record proportion.

The value of the Church Commissioners' investments was nearly £1,200m by the end of 1980 compared with just over £1,000m in 1979.

Over three fifths of that was property, making the commissioners one of the largest property owners in the country. The rest is invested mainly in stocks and shares, with a growing proportion overseas.



Laraine Dudley (left) and Lesley McAdam.

Two girls share one job

By Sarah Segrove

A desk, a typewriter and one job will be shared by two clerk-typists from next Monday at the GEC telecommunications division in Coventry.

The electrical manufacturing company has devised a job-sharing scheme to reduce unemployment among the young while keeping within existing costs.

The first two to benefit, Laraine Dudley, aged 16, and Lesley McAdam, aged 18, will each work half a week in the purchase department of GEC private systems.

Their wages will be £25 and £31 respectively for the two-and-a-half-day week but if one of them fails to turn up for her spell of duty the other will get the whole week's work.

It is intended that the job sharing should continue for 18 months, after which GEC hopes to be able to offer full employment to the girls.

The scheme will offer semi-skilled and clerical work to 20 pairs in Coventry on an experimental basis; during their half week off the participants will have to spend one day at college.

Their wages will be £25 and £31 respectively for the two-and-a-half-day week but if one of them fails to turn up for her spell of duty the other will get the whole week's work.

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New factory projects going ahead

WALE

Nissan-Datsun, the Japanese car company, had indicated that it would probably announce by the end of the month that it was planning to build a new car plant in Wales.

Mr Ian Evans (Aberdare, Lab): How could he, speaking at the weekend, say that Wales has come to the rescue of the car industry, when he has just given these figures, and when Wales has suffered more than any other region, other than the North, in Great Britain?

The Government's policies have deliberately helped to create unemployment that is far worse than any other country in Europe.

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Government not a crutch for industry

NORTH WEST

Every step on the route of the People's March for Jobs had been a step towards the creation of a new job, but the Government's failure to create jobs has been a constant theme of the march.

The marchers, who are now in the North West, are demanding that the Government should create jobs, not just for the sake of the march, but for the sake of the country.

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High fines for phone offences

HOUSE OF LORDS

Imprisonment for certain offences under the British Telecommunications Bill is to be replaced by an unlimited fine, the Earl of Gower, Minister of State for the Home Office, said today when moving an amendment during the report stage of the Bill.

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Israeli police ordered to prevent election violence

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, June 15

The presence of Israeli police at election rallies is to be stepped up immediately to counter an upsurge of organized violence with just over two weeks to go until polling day.

There were two serious disturbances last night when leading members of the opposition Labour Party were shouted down by supporters of Mr Menachem Begin the Prime Minister.

During the worst incident in the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikvah, 18 people were injured and 26 arrested after fighting broke out. About 200 supporters of the ruling Likud coalition repeatedly interrupted Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, with a chant of "Begin, Begin, King of Israel".

Before the police and Mr Peres's bodyguards were able to restore order, the windows of a Labour Party office were smashed, some of the estimated 15,000 Labour supporters were attacked, a bonfire was lit and opposition party members were pelted with rubbish.

At the same time in the town of Ashdod, further down the Mediterranean coast, Mr Abba Eban, the Labour spokesman on foreign affairs, was suffering similar unruly and apparently organized interruptions by crowds of Government supporters.

He was eventually forced to ask the police to restore order. Commenting on the political violence, Mr Peres told a press

conference today that it had not surprised him as it had its model in meetings of the coalition Cabinet.

He accused Mr Begin of Khomeini-type tactics which were threatening to turn Israeli democracy into a regime of fear. Other Labour leaders expressed deep concern about the future of freedom of expression. Last night's incidents were the worst in a campaign which has grown steadily more acrimonious. Last weekend, two anti-Government campaigners organizing a petition in Tel Aviv were taken to hospital after being attacked and prominent Likud politicians today cited examples where their own meetings had been disrupted by left-wingers.

Joseph Burg, the Interior Minister, said election violence over the past week had been organized and he described the latest incidents as very grave.

In addition to ordering police reinforcements, he has asked all party leaders to urge restraint on their supporters and requested the Government to arrange immediate trials for those arrested for disrupting campaign rallies.

Although both main parties have attempted to put the blame on the other, the most serious incidents appear to have been caused by right-wingers. The amount of personal abuse traded has increased as the Likud first caught up and subsequently overtook Labour in the opinion polls.

One Labour advertisement shows an unflattering, first-hand picture of Mr Begin alongside a quotation from Mr David Ben-Gurion, the country's first

Prime Minister, claiming that Mr Begin was a "grave threat to Israel's external and internal position".

The Likud, meanwhile, has concentrated on singling out the alleged personal defects of Mr Peres, to such an extent that the Labour leader yesterday accused his rivals of character assassination.

A recent full-page Likud advertisement consisted of a quotation from Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Labour Prime Minister, who wrote in his autobiography: "I knew Peres, his character and his qualities, I did not believe one word he said. I was determined that if Peres should be elected Prime Minister, my foot would not cross the threshold of the Government."

Underneath was a photograph of Mr Peres and the caption "Look him straight in the eyes. Can you trust this man?"

The upturn in Mr Begin's fortunes were given another boost late this afternoon with the publication of the consumer price index for May which showed an increase of 3.3 per cent as compared with 10.7 per cent for the previous month, a statistic which has figured prominently in Labour campaigning.

Government officials pointed out that today's figure was the lowest monthly increase for some time and was also lower than any recent May figure. This factor is certain to be emphasized by Mr Yoram Aridor, the Finance Minister, who has been indulging in a policy of tax-cutting which the Labour Opposition has labelled "blatant electioneering".



A daughter wiping away her mother's tears of emotion when 7,000 Nazi death camp survivors met in Tel Aviv.

Ambassador attacks peace initiative

By David Spangler, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Shlomo Argov, the Israeli Ambassador in London, yesterday made an outspoken public attack on the European Community's peace initiative in the Middle East, which he declared was helping the enemies of his country.

He told the Diplomatic and Commonwealth Writers Association that the EEC peace effort, launched after the European summit in Venice last June, was doomed to failure if the Europeans kept on trying

to associate the Palestine Liberation Organization with it. The European Community must endorse the proposed autonomy talks for the West Bank as agreed at Camp David, if it was to have any hope of influencing Israel, Mr Argov said.

Lord Carrington, as Foreign Secretary, would be welcome in Israel but if he went as President of the EEC Council of Ministers he would, Mr Argov implied, be wasting his time.

He said that in spurning Israel's offer of autonomy for the Palestinians, Europe had done enormous damage to its credibility in Israeli eyes. "It is seen as pursuing its own fleeting economic interests at the expense of Israel's existential ones. It is looked upon as willing and anxious to provide Israel's enemies with every conceivable and inconceivable implement of war while effectively denying Israel access to its armories."

Moi calls for OAU to focus on economics

From Michael Knipe, Nairobi, June 15

A gentle call for African leaders to concentrate with more determination on the economic challenges facing the continent was made here today by President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya.

Opening a meeting of foreign ministers which will draft the agenda for next week's eighteenth annual summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity, President Moi said the successes in the struggle to liberate the continent from foreign domination meant that Africa's leaders had the opportunity and the duty to work more deliberately for the economic independence of the continent.

This in turn, he said, would be the forerunner of enhanced social justice and human welfare. Africa faced a catalogue of economic problems—food deficits, severe shortages of foreign exchange, continued resources were exploited for the lack of success in ensuring that the continent was not increasingly difficult urban problems.

"We must now move away from talking and into the arena of action," the Kenyan leader said, "because these difficulties have been debated for many years." The continent would continue to be exploited by others until it had intensified development and diversified its economies. Being a member of the Third World did not mean always occupying third place, he said to applause from the assembled delegates.

Another problem facing the continent, President Moi said, was that of refugees. This crisis was assuming alarming proportions. Africa was grateful to the foreign countries that had provided tangible assistance, but

practical aid was not in itself an answer.

A solution could only be sought through establishing conditions conducive to peace, love and unity. "To me it is a matter of great disappointment," Mr Moi said, "that so many African people, having struggled hard to attain independence, should go on suffering now as refugees."

As usual in OAU deliberations, the continuing liberation struggle on the continent received primary attention in the Kenyan leader's speech. He emphasized the organization's commitment to the winning of independence for Namibia and the fight against apartheid in South Africa.

While the door remained open for a peaceful settlement in Namibia, he said, the Pretoria Government had to be propelled to the negotiating table by events on the battlefield.

With regard to South Africa itself, he condemned the greed and hypocrisy which caused some countries to ignore the evils of apartheid, and to collaborate with the Pretoria regime. Africa did not relish violence, Mr Moi said, but the facts showed that armed struggle, with all its costs and sacrifices, seemed to be the only way to achieving human rights and justice.

In accordance with the OAU's practice of giving prominence to the liberation movements in their midst, the response to President Moi's speech was made by a representative of the Pan Africanist Congress of South Africa who criticized the United States for offering overt support for the apartheid regime.

Troops ready for Namibia

UN forces still keep peace after 32 years

From Michael Leapman, New York, June 15

When, at the end of last month, Israel and Syria seemed to be on the verge of war, the mandate for the United Nations observer force in the Golan Heights came up for renewal by the Security Council. If the two countries had really been keen to grab each other by the throat, it may have been thought that they would have wanted the peace-keepers out of the way and so would have opposed any renewal.

Far from it. They gave an early indication that the continuation of the force was all right with them, and the resolution was passed by 14 votes to none, with China abstaining as usual.

In the same way, the mandate of Unifil, the 6,000-strong peace force in Lebanon, is likely to be renewed next week without much debate, despite Israel's attack on the Israeli nuclear reactor. Last week the council gave another six-month term to the 2,462 troops in Cyprus, where the issues are less immediate, but still contentious.

Mr Brian Urquhart, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations in charge of peace-keeping, says: "One of the great attributes of peace-keeping is being there. The point is for them to be there so the people have an excuse to stop fighting." Or, in the case of Israel and Syria, not to start again.

Mr Urquhart, a small, bouncing Englishman of 62, has been with the United Nations since its inception. Now, in the map-room off his office suite on the thirty-eighth floor of the headquarters building in Manhattan, he oversees the burgeoning role of his peace-keepers.

On a black notice-board at one end of the room, the facts and figures of the five current operations are set out in white letters and numbers, the same as those used to denote dishes and prices on the menu in the canteen 34 floors below. I made the point that the board seemed full, that there would be no room for any other peace force in Namibia, for example, if agreement should be reached on establishing one there.

"Oh yes," he replied chirpily. "We can always push them up and make room underneath." He pointed to a blackboard below the statistics for the Golan force. "We can put it there. Today's special."

Israeli patience with Habib mission running out

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, June 15

With Mr Philip Habib, the American special envoy, due back in Israel later this week, there is a growing feeling in political circles here that Israeli patience with his mission is beginning to run out.

The clearest indication of the Government's attitude was given last night, when Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, told an election rally that Israel would itself remove the Syrian missiles if Mr Habib brought a negative answer about Syria's willingness to remove them from Lebanon.

Although Mr Begin repeated an earlier pledge that such a military move by Israel would not lead to war, he said clearly that both the chief-of-staff and the commander of the northern front, were "ready".

His remarks reinforced speculation that any strike against the missile sites is likely to involve a military operation on the ground, as well as in the air.

Unconfirmed press reports have said that this week's visit by Mr Habib will be the last

which the Israeli Government will contemplate before carrying out its threat to act against the missile sites in Lebanon and those recently erected along Syria's border with Lebanon.

□ Damascus: Syria is planning to build a nuclear power plant to generate electricity and reduce the high cost of importing fuel. Dr Omar Yusuf, the Syrian Minister for Electric Power, said today (Reuters reports). He made the announcement at the opening session of the first Arab nuclear conference taking place in Damascus just over a week after Israeli jets destroyed an Iraqi nuclear reactor outside Baghdad.

Also taking part are government and scientific organizations from Britain, Belgium, France, West Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States, along with representatives of the Arab League and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

A spokesman for the Syrian minister said the conference would discuss the pros and cons of nuclear energy usage.

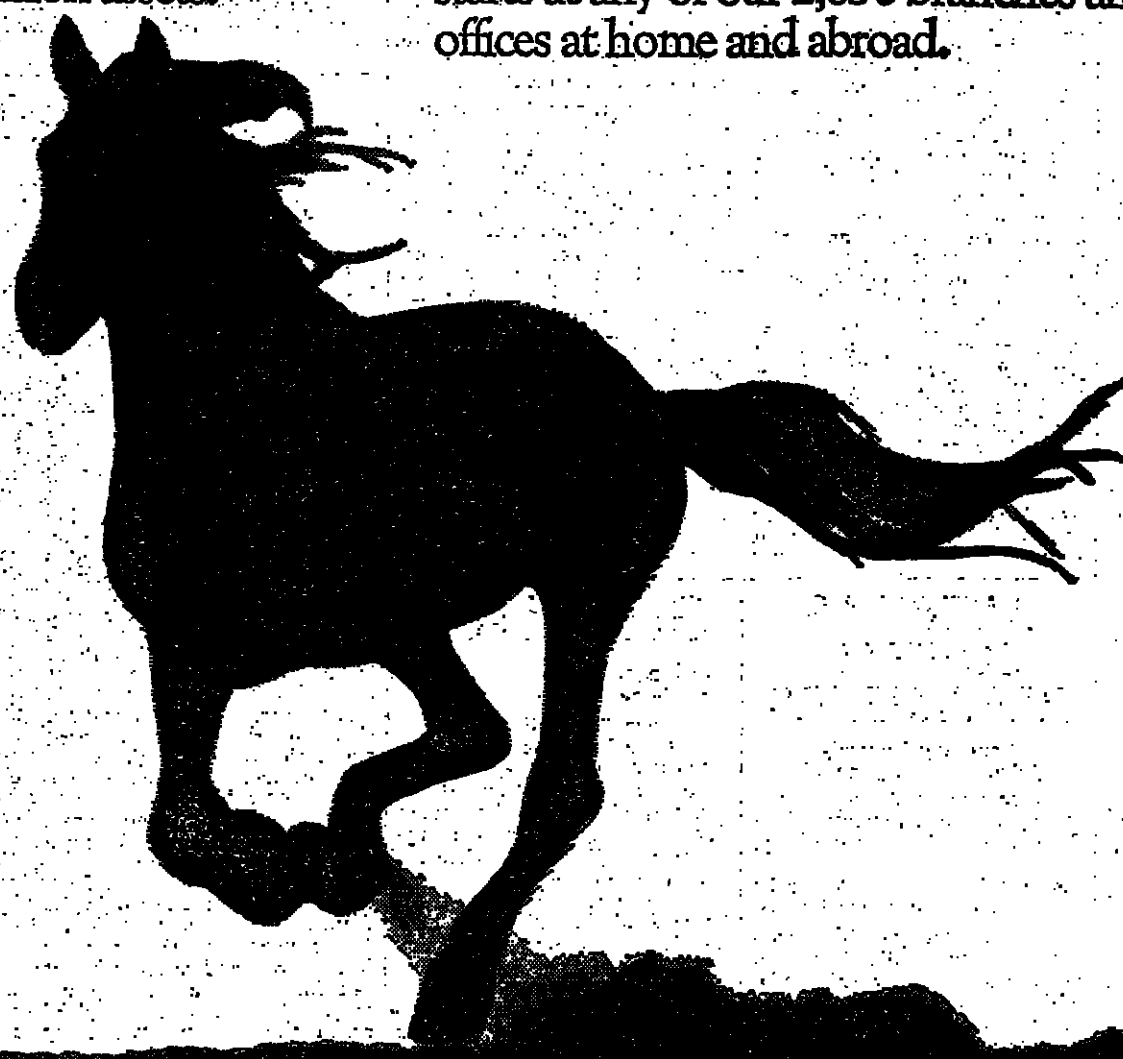
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At the sign of the Black Horse

Pink tide sweeps France thanks to de Gaulle's system

From Charles Hargrove and Ian Murray, Paris, June 15

France has been swept by a pink tide. In the first round of the parliamentary elections yesterday the Socialist Party vote was 13 per cent higher than in the first round of the presidential election last month and 15 per cent higher than in the parliamentary elections of 1978.

The left as a whole rose to heights it has never achieved at the polls since the foundation of the republic more than a century ago.

By one of those strange ironies of history, the Socialists, whatever the outcome of next Sunday's run-off ballot, have now achieved the dominant position in the Fifth Republic which was occupied for so long by the Gaullists, thanks to the institutions bequeathed by General de Gaulle.

The logic of the presidential system he instituted imposed itself triumphantly on the majority of French voters. They had elected a Socialist President; it made sense to them, therefore, to elect a Socialist majority in the National Assembly.

Appeals to them to "correct" their vote of May 10, to hedge their bets by returning the right-wing Majority, fell on deaf ears.

They had been told for years by the Gaullists and Giscardians that a President and Parliament at loggerheads would lead to constitutional chaos. They would not believe these guardians of Gaullist orthodoxy when they claimed with the same insistence that this was the only way to national salvation, merely because a left-wing President had taken the place of a right-wing one.

France has swung to the left. A clear majority of the voters want a change. The first ballot of the parliamentary elections was conclusively in favour of the election of M. Francois Mitterrand was not simply a rejection of M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and his brand of liberal conservatism.

Significantly, the voters were not under the spell of the Communist spectre, agitated vainly by the right. It had been exercised by the historic—the word is not too strong—decline in the Communist vote for M. Georges Marchais on April 26.

If that decline is permanent, as yesterday's poll would sug-

gest, it could have immense consequences for the future course of French politics. Without the Communist incubus, democratic change in this country no longer takes the form it has assumed for the past 23 years—a blind leap into the unknown, a deliberate choice for revolution rather than reform.

The swing has been so sharp, the Socialist landslide so complete, that practically everyone—except, of course, the losers—tends to forget that the electoral game is not played out: there will be a second ballot in a week's time.

The outgoing majority hopes that voters, and especially the unusually large number—29 per cent—of those who stayed away from the polls yesterday, will be awakened from their lethargy.

The electorate could behave, as it did in 1967, when the Gaullists, in the first round, polled exactly the same percentage as the Socialists yesterday, and thought they were home and dry with 100 seats more than the left, only to find a week later that they had a majority of one.

It could come to the conclusion that the Socialist triumph, like the Gaullist's was too complete, and they needed to be cut down to size. But history never quite repeats itself, not even in France, which seems to move forward only on the strength of historical precedent.

The situation today is different from what it was 14 years ago. Then there was a strong opposition party in the centre, in the shape of the Democratic Centre, whose followers in the second ballot tipped the scales in favour of the Socialist and Communist alliance. Today, the outgoing Gaullist and Giscardian majority has such a large reserve of votes to call upon next Sunday.

The pink Socialist tide has swamped the whole country, penetrating into those regions, the west, the centre and the east, regarded hitherto as bastions of the parties of the right; and into the northern, south-eastern and Parisian strongholds of the Communists. Marchais on April 26.

If that decline is permanent, as yesterday's poll would sug-



Lurie

Gaullist leader, ever ready to criticize the inevitable cost of the Socialist programme.

It is the Communist Party which is going to find it most difficult to get up off the floor. If Georges Marchais, the Communist Party leader, asked last night if his party was in decline, he replied angrily that such questions "make me see red." Even so he admitted that French communism was going through a difficult phase.

French politics appear to have begun to polarize into a two-party system. The victory of President Mitterrand in the presidential contest had already forced the right into an electoral alliance. The first round results of the parliamentary elections, now that the Communist Party has been

smashed apart, leaving the Socialists the masters of the left.

If the alliance on the right is an uneasy one, there is no doubt that M. Chirac has been confirmed as the only credible leader of the new opposition. On the left, the Communists find themselves so dominated by the Socialists as to have even given up demanding the right to representation within the Government.

This polarization has resulted in the election of an exceptionally high number of candidates in the first round, by dint of scoring over 50 per cent of the poll in their constituencies. This occurred in 156 out of the 481 seats, while in the 1978 elections it happened in only 53 seats.

Overall, the left scored 55.77 per cent, which is without precedent in French history. Given that at the same time the Communist share of the vote was at 16.18 per cent, the lowest since the war, the scale of the Socialist landslide is obvious.

The Gaullists scored 20.91 per cent compared with 19.10 per cent in 1978. The electoral system, however, means that they are likely to have far more seats than the Giscardian UDF.

The electoral system is being blamed by the Communists too for their poor showing. They believe that there must be some kind of proportional representation if parliamentary elections are to be truly democratic. In this they could well win a sympathetic ear from President Mitterrand, who is known to

favour some kind of national list for parties in addition to the constituency candidates.

In all events, the score of the Communist Party as the most significant result of this first round. In the 58 seats they were defending, they have been beaten in 46 by a Socialist candidate, who will now almost certainly win the seats.

With his own election apparently so overwhelmingly confirmed, President Mitterrand does not intend making any direct appeal to the public before the next round of the elections.

Barring an improbable reversal of the trend next Sunday, M. Mitterrand has got the tailor-made Parliament which he has sought.

William Safire: A Personal View

The secret musings of Comrade Deng

And so another American Secretary of State comes to visit our Middle Kingdom, trailing the running puppets of the media who obey his orders to identify his views as those coming from a senior official.

Haig's reason for coming to Peking is to threaten the Russians with the possibility that Chinese-American friendship could turn into a military alliance, which infuriates them. He comes also to persuade China not to worry about its too-soft willingness to begin arms control treaty-making with the Russians, which infuriates us.

In visions as rough and rosy as the skin of a Jitchi nut, Haig will talk to us of strategic consensus against what we have long identified as the Soviet southward offensive—through the Persian Gulf and India in the west, and through Vietnam and Cambodia in the east.

I will listen, and shrug, and then I will force the Americans to huddle themselves as they did in the Carter years by acceding completely to our wishes about Taiwan. It will persuade the Americans that black is white—that our desire for Taiwan is greater than our fear of the million Russian troops on China's border.

If I know Americans, they will respond by cancelling plans to sell modern aircraft to Taiwan. Then, to justify selling Taiwan any arms at all, Haig will offer up the barbaric fruits of military technology.

I will do him the great favour of "accepting." The Americans feel a strange urge to pay for what is obviously a parallel interest. After Iran fell to the fanatics, Americans offered us tons of surveillance equipment and computers to replace Iran as the world's leading Soviet-watching station. It is an open secret that all we have to do is provide the Chinese technicians to operate the machines and to give the Americans only that information we wished.

The Americans officials will tell their people that China really does not want arms technology, only industrial help. Fine—we must not appear eager. When my de-

fence chief, Geng Biao, went shopping at the Pentagon, all he specifically requested was the Casaca business jet, supposedly for photo reconnaissance. (In truth, my generals want to fly around in executive jets.)

To satisfy my army, and to defend China in ways we can afford, I need the kind of military technology we can copy and produce here.

Of course, I am too sophisticated to believe that a diplomat like Haig, with no political power base, can deliver all he promises. I know that in America, the right wing of the right wing can obstruct the transfer of arms technology because they fear it might be used against the United States one day.

Accordingly, I have directed our ambassador in Washington to invite eight members of the powerful Madi-Sen Xituan to China.

Unlike Haig, they will want to know how America will benefit directly from giving us some arms technology. I can hear their questions now: Will China increase its aid to Pakistan to guerrilla fighting the Russian invader in Afghanistan? What will China do to penetrate the Soviet threat to the Saudis in South Yemen?

I will do as little as I can and as much as I must. Before I die—and I cannot hide the shaking of my hands from any visitor, though I will outlast Brezhnev—I want to see China become the fulcrum between the barbarians of the East and West, always helping the weaker to protect China against the stronger.

In February, 1982, we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of our first playing of the foreign game. I have already invited Richard Nixon and expect him to come. Next I will invite President Reagan, who by next year will have to think about personal involvement in foreign affairs. It would be nice to have Reagan and Nixon here in Peking together, with Kissinger too, and maybe Ford.

The Russians will have fits. The Americans will be in our hands. With Chinese mind, one need not be a superpower to shape the destiny of the world.—New York Times News Service.

Snow boots for summer beaches

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, June 15

Summer has come, and Soviet holidaymakers are getting ready to bask on the beaches, swim, play handball and make the most of the sun. The shops have their latest stock in, but bewildered citizens find this consists entirely of sledges, skis, fur coats and thick boots.

Throughout the country department stores have opened special summer holiday sections, brought in extra sales assistants, put up advertisements. All in vain: there are plenty of advertisements but the counters are bare.

There are no bathing costumes, blouses, shorts or summer dresses. Fishermen, search in vain for rods, lines and rubber dinghies. Instead of sandals, shoe shops are selling skates and galoshes.

A recent survey of the main stores in big towns revealed a bizarre picture: Nothing suitable for the beach was on sale anywhere. And even the few pairs of light shoes, enticingly called "Breeze" and "Fan" were so shoddy that they had come unstuck on the counters.

Sportsmen fare no better. Even Gum, the vast store in Red Square was offering handballs made of solid rubber, badminton rackets only in children's sizes, sportsware that unravelled the moment it was worn.

But there were plenty of overcoats and traditional felt boots to keep out the snow. One shop in a town near Leningrad did a brisk trade last month in artificial fur.

Kiosks specially set up for the summer on the sandy beaches of the Black Sea resorts were turning away thousands coming with unreasonable demands for sunglasses, Panama hats and bathing costumes. And children waiting bicycles and models, while grown-ups on Sunday hikes had to make do with tiny toy trucks strapped to their backs.

A Soviet newspaper dared to ask various shop managers the reason for their unseasonable stock. The answers were always the same: "It's not our fault. We cannot get what we need from the factories." The Trade Ministry in Karelia, about a million women's bathing costumes, but the whole republic had to make do with 24,000.

Marvelling that beachwear went on sale when the temperature fell to -20°C while snowshoes were offered in the Crimea in July, the paper suggested that shops set up special sections for seasonal trade. The suggestion was dismissed as ridiculous. "Where do we get the assortment from," one shop manager asked.

The blame, he said, lay with the factories, who ignored the calendar and produced whatever was most profitable in December, fur hats in May and went down to the beach in felt boots.

Customers might complain till they were blue in the face, the newspaper concluded farcically, but under the present system you bought what you needed in December, fur hats in May and went down to the beach in felt boots.

Pakistan gets \$3000m in arms from America

From Hasan Akhtar

Islamabad, June 15

The United States is to sell Pakistan immediately an unspecified number of F16 fighter-bombers and will provide a further \$2,000m (£1,500m) worth of military equipment over five years, some as economic aid.

A joint statement in the talks between Mr James Buckley, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Security Assistance, and Mr Agha Shahi, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, over the weekend was issued here today. It said that while the United States assistance package was subject to Congressional approval each year, the United States Government agreed to the early delivery of the defence equipment urgently needed by Pakistan for its war against the Soviet Union.

Mr Shahi refused to disclose what a equipment Pakistan would receive from the United States nor would he reveal the number of F16 aircraft Islamabad, expected to be delivered soon. He said Pakistani military experts would visit the United States in about two weeks time to finalize the purchases.

He explained that the defence equipment Pakistan required would be outside the proposed five-year package which would come into effect in October next year subject to the approval of the Congress. The urgent purchases would be the value of the anticipated military and economic assistance to more than \$3,000m.

The estimated value of immediate purchases was not given although the Pakistan Foreign Minister disclosed that part of the price would be paid for by the United States. "The right friends," he said, "most observers believe refers to Saudi Arabia in particular."

Mr Shahi said that Pakistan would pay the market price for the equipment with credits at the prevailing rate of 14 per cent.

ALERT AS SOWETO REMEMBERS

From Ray Kennedy

Johannesburg, June 15

Police and troops are standing by to move tomorrow into Soweto, outside Johannesburg, where five years ago riots erupted that left nearly 600 blacks dead, most from police bullets.

Troops, mainly white conscripts, were called in two weeks ago to cordon off Johannesburg's coloured townships after riots resulting from the detention of a student leader during South Africa's official celebrations of its twentieth anniversary as a republic.

The authorities are taking no chances that the Soweto anniversary—labelled a day of mourning by Black Consciousness groups—will turn into a serious disturbance.

During the weekend, Soweto and other black townships in Johannesburg and Pretoria areas were cordoned off by roadblocks manned by police and troops.

All vehicles were stopped and searched and police said today they had made 144 arrests for crimes ranging from having stolen property to drunken driving and public nuisance. More than 1,000 summonses had been issued for various offences.



Ayatollah Khomeini declaring that the independence of Iran depends on the independence of its universities, when he addressed a meeting at the Cultural Revolution headquarters in Tehran.

Series shows there is no defence

Nuclear holocaust goes on TV

From Michael Leapman, New York, June 15

Last night we lost Omaha, blasted from our television screens by a 15 megaton simulated atomic explosion which left charred bodies all over the landscape. Tonight they are promising to do the same to some European cities ("Warsaw, Paris, Berlin...") and by the end of the week there will be little left of the world as we know it.

The Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) is devoting an hour on five successive nights this week to a terrifying series of documentaries called *The Defence of the United States*. The message of the first episode last night was that there is no defence against vast casualties in a nuclear attack. Afterwards the burnt-out shells of skyscrapers towered above the rubble in the silent city centre. Blackened, unrecognizable bodies lay among them. These in one sense, were the lucky ones. Within a few days, we were told, one and a half million people from the surrounding area would die from the effects of radiation.

The people of Omaha were interviewed and asked what it felt like to be a likely prime target. "What can we do?" asked one woman. "You say a prayer, that's all."

In order that none of us should feel safe, the programme included a map of the United States showing scores of cities which, because of their concentration of industry or their strategic importance, would be among the first targets of a multi-target strike. But, for comfort, an admiral commented: "The Soviets lost 20 million Russians in World War Two and they survived."

One expert pointed out that because Soviet population centres were more scattered, fewer Russians than Americans would die in the initial missile exchange. However, the Russians have a more centralized industrial base so it would be easier to destroy their economy and make life unbearable for survivors.

Omaha, in Nebraska, was chosen as the purported target for a Soviet missile attack because it is the headquarters of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) which controls American missiles aimed at Eastern Europe. The actual nerve centre of SAC is comparatively safe, buried three stories below ground, but everything and everyone on the surface for miles around would be obliterated. More than two million people would die.

Then he was asked whether he knew the targets for the missiles he might one day have to send on their journey east. He did not. "I don't have a need to know to start with. Secondly, I'd feel kind of emotional about what kind of people I'd be destroying."

The operation is to close the artificial anal opening in the colon made during a live-and-a-half hour operation after the shooting. The sources said the Pope will use the same doctors and the same hospital, Genet Policlinico Hospital in Rome, as in his first operation. Recovery is expected to take about a month.—AP.

Discord at Unesco conference

From Ian Murray

Paris, June 15

Work on drawing up an international programme for the development of communication got stuck on the second item of the agenda today at Unesco, in Paris.

The problem was to find a compromise candidate to sit as chairman. The chairman has to be acceptable to the West, the Soviet block and the developing countries.

A series of private meetings of the different groups followed the opening address by Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General of Unesco, who has made a personal crusade to set up a new world information order to challenge what he describes as the "Western supremacy in news-collecting and distribution."

The longest and most difficult private meeting was one involving the seven Western nations with Japan to try to select a candidate from among their number. In the end, with the exception of Norway, they agreed to back M. Jean d'Arbo, a member of the French delegation.

Mr Gunnar Garbo, the head of the Norwegian delegation, insisted on letting his own name go forward. He is thought to have wide support from among the developing countries and is on good terms with Mr M'Bow, who recently toured Scandinavia.

At the same time, the Western block is increasingly concerned that to give way to Unesco's proposal would not only make it more difficult for Western journalists to work, but would ignore the plight of Third World journalists, who often have to work with little or no equipment.

There is behind the meeting a sense of frustration on the part of the Third World countries that so far after 10 years of argument within Unesco, nothing practical has been achieved. It is being held about a change in the news and information balance.

France kills hormone plan

From Michael Hornsby

Luxembourg, June 15

EEC agriculture ministers failed again here today to agree on new regulations for controlling the use of hormones in the rearing of animals for human consumption.

Nine of the 10 ministers, including Mr Peter Walker for Britain, were prepared to support a compromise proposal for a ban on silibuteres and thyrostatics, which are widely held to be the most dangerous synthetic hormones. Only France dissented.

It was the discovery of stilbenes residue in baby food in Italy last autumn which provoked a public outcry there and a consumer boycott of veal. The boycott spread to France and Belgium, causing a sharp drop in veal sales.

In response to the public furor, and pressure from the French and Italian governments, the European Commission came up with a draft direc-

Chairman Hauset to lose post

Peking, June 15—A high-level Communist Party meeting began today which diplomats expected would lead to the removal of Mao Tse-tung's chosen successor, Mr Hua Guofeng as party chairman.

A senior official said the meeting of the party's Central Committee was starting. Such meetings are usually shrouded in secrecy until the end.

Diplomatic sources said the meeting was probably either a long-awaited sixth plenary session, originally to have been held late last year, or a preparatory meeting for it.

The sources said the plenum was expected to accept Mr Hua's resignation and appoint in his place Mr Hu Yaobang, the party Vice-Chairman.

The removal of Mr Hua, who was forced to resign as Prime Minister last year, will be another victory for Mr Deng and his moderate leaders who associated Mr Hua with the now discredited policies of his predecessor, Mao Tse-tung.

Mr Hua, however, is expected to retain some face-saving position.

The sixth plenum has to be held by July 1, the sixteenth anniversary of the party, when an historical document reassessing the merits and mistakes of the late chairman Mao, who died in September 1976, is due to be published.

The meeting is to approve the historical document, formally affirming that Mao's mistakes were secondary and his achievements primary.

Diplomatic sources said other items on the agenda were expected to include the nomination of a new general secretary in succession to Mr Hu Yaobang, thought likely to be Mr Peng Cheng, and some changes in the 11-man party secretariat.

Economic policy would also be discussed and a new advisory council of elders might be set up for ageing leaders, who traditionally in China consider full retirement to be a loss of face.—Reuter.

Suzuki plays on trade divisions within the EEC

From Michael Hornsby, Luxembourg, June 15

Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, opened the second week of his European diplomatic offensive with talks in Brussels today with Mr Mark Eyskens, his Belgian opposite number, and Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the European Commission.

Accompanied by Mr Susao Sonoda, his Foreign Minister, Mr Suzuki is hoping to head off concerted western pressure to reduce the Japanese trade surplus which he sees leaders of the six other big non-communist industrial nations at the Osaka economic summit next month.

Mr Suzuki left Japan on June 9 and was in Hamburg and Rome last week. After an audience with King Baudouin tomorrow, he flies on to London where he will have talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher on Wednesday. He will also visit The Hague and Paris before arriving back in Tokyo next Sunday.

Mr Suzuki is taking a lofty view of his European tour, putting much emphasis on the common values shared by Japan and the western democracies and the need for them to "pool their efforts and work together for the peace and stability of the world."

The main concern of his EEC hosts is more prosaic: Community trade deficit with Japan that totalled \$11,000m (£5,500m) last year and rose by 46 per cent in the first four months of 1981.

EEC governments are pressing the Japanese both to increase their imports of European manufactured goods, and to reduce their exports of sensitive items such as cars, colour television sets and tubes and certain types of machine tools.

During the first quarter of this year, EEC imports of Japanese colour television sets rose by 40 per cent and passenger cars by 18 per cent and colour television tubes by 7 per cent, according to European Commission figures.

Hurd puts case for Trident

From Ian Murray, Paris, June 15

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, sought to reassure the Western European Union today that Britain's defence spending would continue to grow at 3 per cent annually in line with Nato's guidelines. At the same time he stoutly defended the decision to replace Polaris with Trident missiles.

He said, however, that increased spending was not enough to contain the "technological inflation" caused by the sheer complexity of modern defence systems. This was a cost which was accelerating because of the need to keep up with military developments in the Soviet Union.

"We in Western Europe have to live with the Soviet Union on peaceful terms," he said. "We can only do so if we ourselves retain and display the determination to be strong."

"The Soviet Union is constantly tempted to use the military power in which it excels to counterbalance economic and political weaknesses. We saw the Soviet Union yield to that temptation in Afghanistan and we see the temptation facing them again in Poland," he added.

This was why it was essential to have nuclear weapons with a high chance of reaching their targets. The Trident would assure the British contribution to the overall Western deterrence for another generation.

If the West showed it was being softened by the various disarmament campaigns, he added, then the Soviet Union would be less likely to feel the need to reach serious, balanced agreements with the West.

The West needed "credible deterrence and this means nuclear deterrence," he said in conclusion.

Japanese resist defence pressure from Americans

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, June 15

Japanese officials today accused the United States of attempting to force Japan to increase the size and the fighting capability of its armed forces "far beyond the target envisaged by our people and the Government."

At the same time, an American diplomat in Tokyo said that the United States expected Japan to spend more on defence and take a greater responsibility for its own security. "The time has come when the Japanese can no longer expect a free ride on the issue of defence. They will have to pay more for their own security," he said.

Earlier today Mr Toru Hara, deputy minister in charge of the Defence Agency, is reported to have told senior members of the Cabinet that United States officials who attended a meeting of the Japan-United States security committee in Honolulu last week were highly dissatisfied with Tokyo's reluctance to build up its military machine.

Other officials claimed the United States had presented Japan with a list of equipment and anti-submarine aircraft the country would have to acquire in the next few years if the Self-Defence Force, a euphemism for the Army, Navy and Air Force, were to play a real

part in maintaining the security of the area.

Mr Hara is reported to have reminded American negotiators in Hawaii that the constitution, drawn up during the United States occupation 35 years ago, restricts the size of Japan's armed forces to 270,000 men. The strength of the Army is limited to 180,000 troops who are prohibited from operating abroad.

Japan spends the equivalent to 0.9 per cent of its gross national product on defence. In contrast, members of Nato are contributing as much as 6 per cent towards defence.

The Japanese Government says it will increase its defence budget by about 7.5 per cent annually over the next four years and spend about 1 per cent of gross national product on defence by the end of 1984.

American officials who attended the Honolulu meeting believe this is a cosmetic gesture which will do little to enhance the fighting power of the world's second largest economic power.

In recent weeks, Japanese political groups and newspapers have conducted a campaign to prevent American naval vessels and aircraft from carrying nuclear weapons into their bases in Japan.

Portuguese leader wins party struggle

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon, June 15

Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Portuguese Prime Minister, began a two-day visit in Bonn today, after having decisively defeated the first serious challenge to his leadership.

In the peculiar situation created by the death in an air crash of Francisco Sá Carneiro, his charismatic predecessor, the challenge did not come from the opposition Socialist Party, or the other party in the ruling coalition but from within the Prime Minister's own Social Democratic Party.

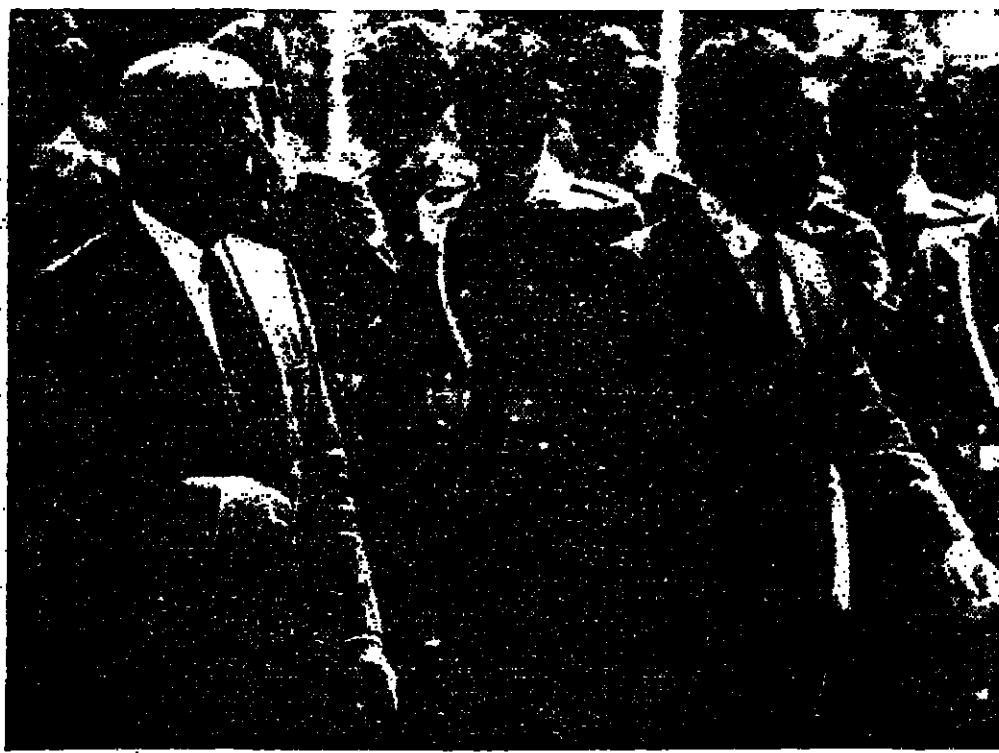
Several prominent members of the influential right wing of the party, headed by Senhor António Cerveira e Silva, who was Sá Carneiro's Finance and Planning Minister, are dissatisfied with the change of style of governing of Senhor Pinto Balsemão and believe that they could administer the Sá Carneiro "inheritance" more faithfully than the present Prime Minister.

Senhor Pinto Balsemão defeated his critics by calling a special meeting of the party's national council over the weekend, and calling a special meeting of the party's national council, which voted overwhelmingly for his continued leadership and gave him a mandate to negotiate with the Centre Democratic coalition partners, led by Professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral, the future electoral strategy of the alliance.

The Prime Minister has gained time, but probably only until the autumn, to develop a more decisive style of leadership. Senhor Cerveira e Silva did not bother to wait the outcome of the voting, and the fiery hardliner Senhora Helena Rosa, one of the Prime Minister's long-standing opponents, resigned from the party's policy committee after coming under criticism.

Senhor Pinto Balsemão took on what he labelled the "organised opposition" within the party, telling the gathering they must choose between him and the alternative his critics represented.

The critics of Senhor Pinto Balsemão have two things in common: a nostalgia for the confrontational policies of Dr Sá Carneiro, particularly with President Ramalho Eanes, and a yearning for the right-wing course he skillfully steered



Herr Schmidt (left) with Senhor Pinto Balsemão in Bonn yesterday.

under the cover of the party's Social Democratic label.

The Pinto Balsemão Government has had a difficult six months in office, with problems like a severe drought and strikes in the public sector. But a recent opinion poll has shown the Prime Minister's popularity holding up surprisingly well.

Heading a coalition, in which the minor partners, the Centre Democrats, better organized and pursue purposefully their aim to take Portugal's politics to the right, was a difficult task for Senhor Pinto Balsemão.

These difficulties were increased by the fact that several prominent members of his own party never quite accepted him. Things came to a head as these faction leaders, using the influential Lisbon district party as a sounding board, publicly

criticized the Government last week as "weak and colourless" and demanded immediate steps to resolve the leadership crisis in the party and Government.

□ Bonn: Portugal wishes to play a more active role in Nato, Senhor Pinto Balsemão said in Bonn on his arrival (Patricia Clough writes). "We do not wish simply to be a transit country," he said. The Portuguese armed forces needed re-equipping and the Government had turned to its Nato allies for help, he told journalists here.

Senhor Pinto Balsemão was speaking after talks with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, during which he pressed for more West German investment in Portugal.

At a meeting here today with Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the European Commission, Mr Walker pressed Britain's case for a lowering of the tax. He claimed that a reduction had been clearly recognized as justified at the time of the spring price-fixing.

Mr Walker also gave a warning that Britain would not be able to approve a new EEC sugar regime, which is due to come into force on July 1, if the lamb problem was not resolved to his satisfaction.

Although upset by the British attitude, Mr Thorn, who was standing in for the ailing Mr Poul Dalsager, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, promised to come forward with a new proposal as soon as possible to meet Britain's problem.

However, Mme Edith Cresson, the French Agriculture Minister, who like Mr Walker, was attending a meeting here of the EEC's Council of Ministers, said any such proposal would have to be approved by the council, where France has the power of veto.

British demands could lead to new lamb war

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, June 15

The EEC faces a fresh outbreak of the lamb war between Britain and France which was supposedly settled last October by the introduction of a new sheepmeat regime and the lifting of the French ban on imports of British lamb.

Hailed at the time by Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, as a victory for British lamb producers and consumers, the sheepmeat regime has in fact reduced British exports to a much lower level than before the French ban was lifted.

Under the regime, British sheepfarmers are paid a subsidy from EEC funds to bring the low market price they receive for their animals up to a guaranteed minimum price.

This subsidy has to be reimbursed, however, in the form of an export tax if British lamb is shipped to the Continent where market prices are artificially maintained at the guaranteed level by the traditional EEC system of intervention buying.

British exporters complain that the tax is too high.

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King Khalid visits Spain

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, June 15

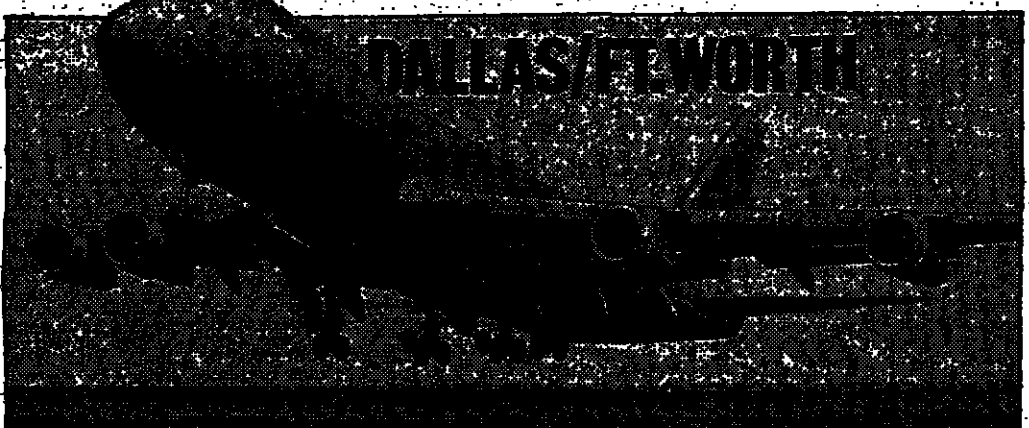
King Khalid of Saudi Arabia arrived here today on a three-day official visit, which Spanish officials hope will lead to more Saudi oil for Spain and more Spanish exports.

The King's programme includes a call on King Juan Carlos at the Zarzuela Palace on the outskirts of Madrid, a formal state dinner at the Oriente Palace here; a dinner with Señor Leopoldo Calvo

Sotelo, the Prime Minister tomorrow; and a visit to the Hunter's Museum at Riofrio, in the Guadarrama mountains, on Wednesday.

Saudi Arabia is Spain's main supplier of oil, furnishing 22 per cent of the country's needs. Last year, Spain imported £1,270m worth of Saudi products, primarily oil, and exported £1,84m worth of goods to Saudi Arabia.

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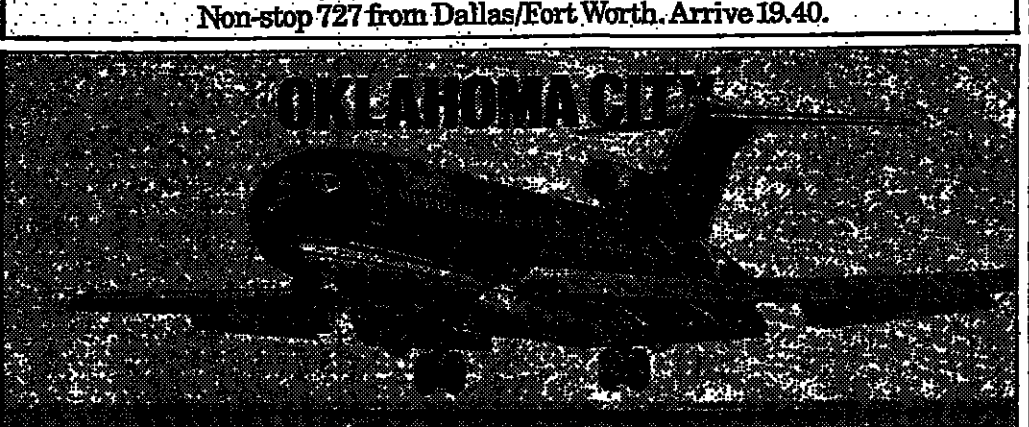
Non-stop 727 from Dallas/Fort Worth. Arrive 17.50.



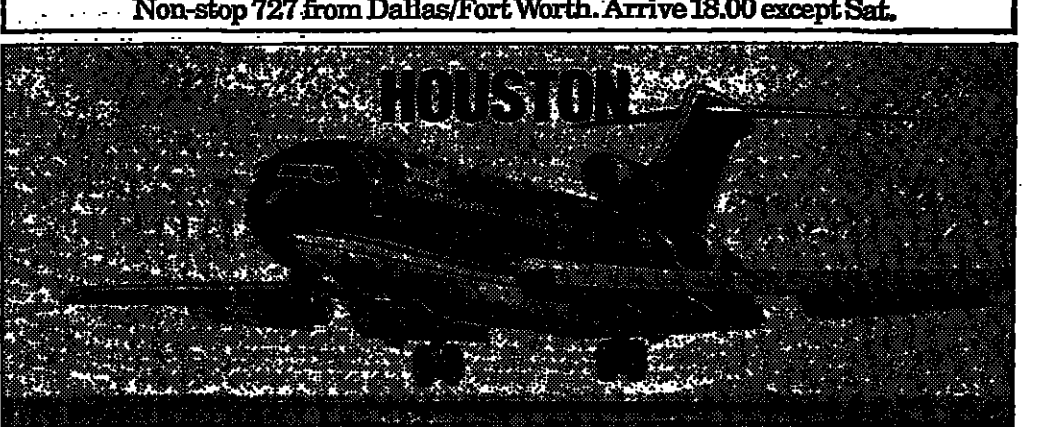
Non-stop 727 from Dallas/Fort Worth. Arrive 19.40.



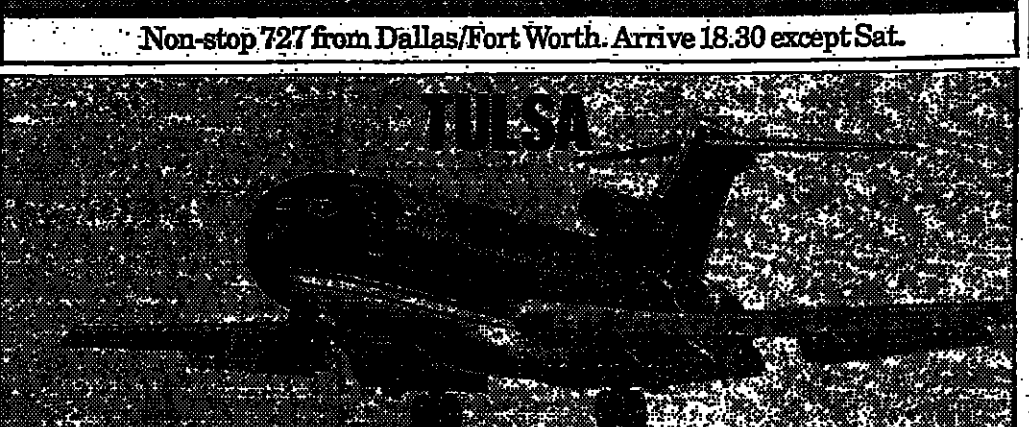
Non-stop 727 from Dallas/Fort Worth. Arrive 18.00 except Sat.



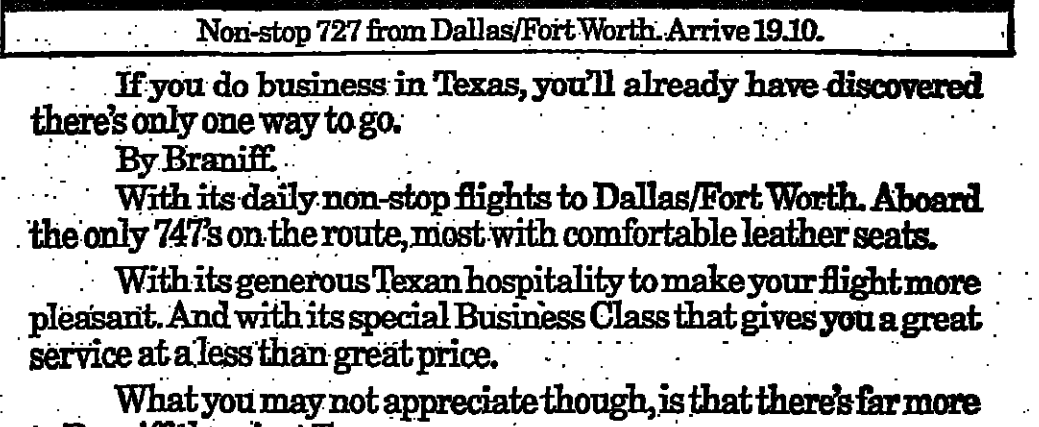
Non-stop 727 from Dallas/Fort Worth. Arrive 18.30 except Sat.



Non-stop 727 from Dallas/Fort Worth. Arrive 19.10.



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Stop exposing young immigrants to the X-ray myth

Anyone who knows anything about children and hospitals will know that as a consequence they can be disastrous: fear runs up against cold routine and the harassed parent is caught in the middle. This truth I am about to demonstrate.

Before I do, let me explain that I am not about to embark upon a lengthy personal anecdote for the pleasure of giving you a glimpse of one mother's anxiety. On the contrary, my intention is to share with you a sense of outrage at something which is profoundly more important than the personal, but something which a sense of personal identification makes all the more vivid — and all the more loathsome.

A week or so ago I had to take my son, a seven-and-a-half-year-old (those halves do matter at this age) to the local child welfare clinic, to be weighed and measured, because he is small for his age. The paediatrician was friendly, the students were interested, yet (despite that) anxiety stalked as stealthily as a night nurse. We were told that an X-ray would be necessary to determine "bone age".

I hasten to add that there was no suggestion that somehow I had been wrong for seven-and-a-half years — any mother would laugh such a suggestion out of the consulting room, should any doctor be presumptuous enough to suggest that she did not know the age of her own child. No, the X-ray is taken to find out how mature the skeleton is, to discover if there is bone retardation, and to predict the likely adult height of the child.

My son complained that he did not want an X-ray, that he did not know what an X-ray was, and that whatever it was it was a bad idea designed to make him suffer. We walked down long corridors, and from being worried, he moved through stages of rebellion, depression, resignation, to actual terror. There were copious tears. Waiting, watching through old magazines, flicking the light switch on and off, red for danger when an X-ray is being taken, hearing the names called, then at last it was our turn.

The room was large and gleaming. The doctor, a man with his left hand and wrist (note that) spread out on the table, and pulled the cumbersome machinery across. His eyes were steady on the screen behind the screen — do not forget that X-rays are dangerous — while he flinched at the quick clashing noise. Then it was over. Since the whole visit had taken over one and a half hours, a toy and an ice cream could barely console him, and it took a much more substantial refreshment to restore my own strength.

For the rest of the day, the results confirm what I already know: that my son is seven, has the stature of a five year old,

but is at least growing within the range of normality — a pretty wide span. But such an X-ray test, carried out by someone who did not know the child's chronological age, or who did not believe that age, would lead to the conclusion that this particular child is two years younger than stated. Of course, here such a mistake is impossible to imagine, here we do not do things like that.

But if I were a mother in Pakistan, I might have to endure a similar ordeal with an identical weeping seven year old, with my family's future in the balance, and with a British immigration official quite likely to turn round and call me a liar. That is what is being done in your name, my name, the name of my son. Bone X-rays are still a part of procedure in British posts in Asia (though Lord Larrington told the House in March that they have not been used recently in India) and are used, like the notorious virginity test, to check the identity of potential immigrants to this country.

Two years ago, under pressure from the British Medical Association, the government set up the Yellowfloods inquiry to look into these dubious practices, and this bland document shoves the issue of X-rays into an appendix. It says that the use of X-rays of the bony skeleton provides a useful, fairly accurate and acceptably safe way of estimating the age of children when it is important to do so.

That statement is as I have shown, shameful nonsense. If there can be such a gap between chronological age and bone age in a healthy child like mine, brought up in the prosperous West, how much greater might the gap be in a child brought up in Dacca, who is more likely to be undernourished, and whose growth may be affected by genetic factors that we know nothing about? Yet we — represented by immigration officials on the ground and the Yellowfloods report in the corridors of power — choose to put children through the drawn-out and often frightening process I described earlier, because we call it "fairly accurate".

And what of this little phrase "acceptably safe"? Do not forget that when my son's hand was X-rayed I was earnestly requested to pop behind a screen to protect myself from unnecessary exposure to radiation. X-rays may be routine in British hospitals, but no doctor exposes a patient (especially a child) to X-rays unless he has a jolly good reason for doing so. A new report, commissioned by Lord Avebury takes Yellowfloods apart without much difficulty, pointing out the dangers of radiation, especially in children. It comments on the fact that immigration X-rays are not restricted to the left hand — as for reasons of safety, here.



Bel Mooney: speaking up for harassed parents.

The World Health Organisation has roundly condemned the use of X-rays used "for administrative purposes".

Now there may be those who believe it is in the long-term interests of our great nation to make the strictest possible examination of all applications to come here, and that those interests justify the use of X-ray tests. But surely such an argument depends for its strength on the reliability of the tests — and no less a body than the Institute of Child Health has pointed out that X-rays are unsafe and wildly inaccurate. Medically valid they are not, and nor are they morally valid. The BMA — not noted for its radicalism — passed a motion in 1979 which stated that X-ray tests "carried out solely for administrative and political purposes are unethical". The eminent doctors called upon the Government to ban such practices. And are they satisfied with the Yellowfloods report? So unsatisfied is the BMA that it wrote to Sir Henry Yellowfloods in April requesting a meeting. No reply. Two phone calls have got the eminent doctors nowhere.

My phone calls to the press offices of the Home Office and the Department of Health and

Social Security led to the inescapable conclusion that muddled men are vaguely conscious of the issue, but that nothing is being done.

Is it because this is all going on, not in my local child welfare clinic, but far away? It is very hard indeed to imagine such a discredited practice happening, for instance, in Australia. In the unlikely event of Aussies clamouring to come here, for even if the colonials put up with it, the outcry here would blow the roof off the Home Office. No — we are putting children through an ordeal of fear and exposing them to quite unnecessary danger in carrying out a test which in any case does not show accurately what it is supposed to show — and we are doing all this with impunity because those children are Asian.

This abuse of medical practice and human rights still goes on because those children have brown skins, and are unfortunately enough to have parents who want to join relatives here. As a nation we should ask ourselves what justification there can ever be for doing to another country's children what we would never do to our own.

Bel Mooney

Does old age have to mean mental decline?

The news that Rita Hayworth is suffering from rapidly progressive senility will have saddened the millions of filmgoers who remember her rare combination of beauty and vitality. She is said to have Alzheimer's disease, thought until recently to be rare. In every 10 Britons over 60 has Alzheimer's disease; the physical and mental deterioration that it causes is relentless and is fatal within five to 10 years.

Medical concepts of mental aging and senility have changed substantially in the past few years. Like other organs such as the heart, lungs, and kidneys, the brain becomes less efficient with age. Old men forget they took a little shower — but as Picasso, de Gaulle, and a galaxy of orchestral conductors from Beethoven to Stokowski have shown, aging is not necessarily a process of remorseless decline.

In some old people, however, the rundown suddenly accelerates. From being physically fit and mentally alert at 60 or even 70, an individual becomes so forgetful that normal conversation becomes impossible, he neglects his hygiene, and soon needs constant supervision to prevent accidents or fires. This transition from normal old age to senile dementia may take only a few months.

"Sad," doctors used to say, "it's hardening of the arteries. The brain isn't getting the oxygen it needs. The blood vessels have furred up like water pipes blocked by scale. Experiments were made to this diagnosis when the dementia affected a man or woman in their 50s or early 60s. In these cases the medical label was presenile dementia, but the varieties with their exotic names taken from nineteenth century European neurologists — Pick's and Jacob-Creutzfeldt's disease as well as Alzheimer's disease — were said to be rare and of little practical importance.

All were thought to be examples of premature aging or degeneration of the brain cells. Ordinary dementia or senile decay as it affected patients aged 70 and over was seen as a natural process, but one that affected individuals unpredictably, like greying of the hair.

That picture has now had to be revised. As microscopic examination of brains removed after death has shown the unmistakable picture of Alzheimer's disease in 80 per cent of individuals dying from dementia, whether aged 55 or 95. Nothing is wrong with the blood supply to these brains; the striking abnormality is the loss of brain cells, while those that remain are tangled and distorted. Whatever its cause, Alzheimer's disease is not just accelerated aging.



The decline of a star: Rita Hayworth in her Hollywood heyday and right, now, in her sixties. Below, still taken in their eighties: Dame Ninette de Valois, Evelyn Laye and Dame Rebecca West.



This change in medical opinion may seem of only academic importance. Doctors had no treatment for their patients when they believed their dementia was due to arteriosclerosis; they have no treatment now that they believe that in most cases the diagnosis should be Alzheimer's disease. Yet there are important, practical implications. As life expectancy increases, many more people are living into their 70s and beyond, and dementia affects one in every five 80-year-olds.

Dementia is, indeed, swamping the medical services for the elderly to the virtual exclusion of everything else. Our crowded geriatric hospitals can accommodate only a fraction of those affected, and millions of demented old people are left in the care of their overburdened families. So long as dementia was seen as natural, and inevitable, health planners could only press for more

resources for the elderly. If, however, Alzheimer's disease should prove to be either treatable or preventable, the outlook for the elderly could be transformed.

What are the prospects? The brains of patients with Alzheimer's disease show not only structural but also biochemical abnormalities, and research workers in neurological institutes around the world are trying to identify which are the important, potentially reversible defects. The current leading hypothesis is that deficiencies in the chemicals that transmit impulses from one nerve cell to another. Already attempts are being made to restore the chemical balance to normal.

Recognition that most patients with senile dementia have Alzheimer's disease explains, too, the failure of previous efforts to reverse

senility. Treatments intended to increase the supply of oxygen to the brain, to flush blood clots from its arteries, or to soak it in vitamins were all based on mistaken theories. Now that the targets for research have been identified, the prospects are brightening. (And no one need fear that a cure for dementia would further distort the age-pattern in our society; even if medicine could eliminate deaths from cancer, stroke, and heart disease as well as dementia most of us could still expect our bodies to wear out around the age of 85.)

Meanwhile too many families have to struggle with the daily problems of coping with a demented relative. On any cost-effective analysis, money spent on research into dementia must be a sound investment.

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent

Fashion by Suzy Menkes

Stretching your wardrobe

Do your clothes work as hard as you do? While we are scurrying from home to office to supermarket to school, taking up yoga, taking down the minutes or taking on the Board, our clothes have a more leisureed life.

The little silk suit rests quietly on its hanger waiting for an evening out. The summer T-shirt is a prisoner in its drawer, seeing daylight only on a sweltering day in the garden. The espadrilles have been waiting for a dry spell to take their first steps.

We now have 12 weeks in which summer clothes can justify their purchase. Unless you are profligate, you will want anything you buy now to be of maximum possible use, which means crisp, functional clothes that will stand up to everyday wear and be suitable for travelling and sightseeing.

It is a surprisingly tall order, for this summer's clothes have become compartmentalized: silk outfits for Ascot, safari shorts for sportswear, frilly romantic blouses for evening, tropical prints for holidays.

Bridging the gap are the stylish separates which should be the basics of any woman's wardrobe. They are the canvas which you colour with simple wooden beads and plain shoes for work or with shell necklaces and bold bangles for less formal wear.

The most important decision is to pick a plain background enlivened with stripes or a small splash of print.

The two leading looks are the perennially popular Deauville: crisp cotton skirts with white and navy predominating — and the safari styles. Sandy beige jackets, safari shorts and separates all look better with a tan, but you can spice them with red to give warmth.

Since this summer's basics should survive until next year, the skin skirts that never go out of fashion are the wisest buys. If you are still wearing last summer's outfits and looking for ways to bring them up to date, the big changes have been at the neck and the knees.

The round-necked T-shirt has now been superseded by the polo shirt, especially the collared and cuffed version by the American firm of Lacoste. Jackets, by contrast, look newest without a collar or with very narrow revers. (But your old navy blazer will do very well — they are universally shorter except for the revived peasant skirt). Straight and culotte skirts must be shortened to at least on the knee and worn with flat shoes or sandals.

This summer's accessories are anything in wood, bronze or white.



Anyone for Deauville? Left: short sleeved seersucker suit with canvas (not shown) in blue or beige and white stripes £28.99 from main branches of Richard Shops. Tennis shirt by Lacoste £13.95 in white, red, navy or beige, with white and gold belt. £4.95, both from Fenwick of Bond Street. Soft bag by Christopher Tull from his shop at 17 Catherine Street and Harvey Nichols. Embroidered flaties £26.99 in blue, white or khaki from Russell & Bromley, main branches.

Right: Navy and white striped polo shirt by Laurel £17.50, crisp white culotte skirt with selection at John Lewis: Sandals £39.50 in red and gold or black and gold from Russell & Bromley, 24 New Bond Street and London branches. Shell necklace by Adrien Mann. Right: Button-through safari dress with webbing belt by Anne Tyrrell for John Marks. £59.95 in khaki or beige, from Irvine Sellers of Oxford Street and Leeds, Peter Robinson, Oxford Circus. Identity of Plymouth and Chez Monique of Brighton. Striped cotton sweater by

Adrian Cartmel from Crocodile branches in London and Altrincham, Bournemouth, Brighton, Chichester, Guildford, Solihull, Tunbridge Wells, Windsor and Royal Exchange Shopping Centre, Manchester. Sandals £39.99 from Russell & Bromley, 24 New Bond Street and main branches. Wooden beads and bangles by Adrien Mann.

Hair by Gary from Toni and Guy

Photograph by Tony Boase

Snippets

■ Not a jogging bra, but a bra for jogging, explained the astounded constables when I asked about undies for sportswear. I saw her point.

Any woman who takes up active sports should think about what goes underneath her slinky tennis dress or cycling track suit. Pretty undies have their place, but comfort and practicality must be the first priorities.

Those inspired by the onset of Wimbledon to bring a racket might like to control their curves with Bertie's Sports Bra in nylon and cotton lock-knit, with airy elastic mesh under the cups. Comes in white and natural, in 32 to 38 inch bust, various cup sizes, from major department stores.

The energetic teenager will like Triumph's Aerex bra with adjustable straps (£4.99). One of their three Tri action bras designed specifically for sportswear. All in polyester cotton and elastane, in white and natural. They include a bra for large busts (up to size 42) and a front-fastening bra with racing-style back (also recommended for mastectomy patients). They are £2.50 and £5.50 respectively from major stores including Harrods and Selfridges.

Rose Lewis of Knightsbridge recommends a cotton bra in a good shape "so that you don't feel that you're not wearing anything on". She suggests a full-cup under a light cotton tennis dress and a sports bra with no seaming but good support under cycling shirts. Rose Lewis has bras from 32 to 42 inch bust, from 40 Knightsbridge, London, SW1.

If cotton is really the winning fabric for sportswear, you wouldn't think so from combing the sports departments, which seem to have a great deal of nylon for trackuits and socks. Harrods Olympic Way have Fred Perry's 100 per cent cotton sports socks at £1.65 and cotton sports pants by Lacoste at £4.95. They also have Warner's Sports bras at £7.

■ It was one of those parties where I had to go to wear. But then the only thing you can wear to have cocktails with Harry Winston is a diamond as big as a Ritz biscuit.

There were plenty of those on show alongside the canapés when Harry Winston of New York (now run by son Ronald) rode into town and set up their wares — stunning stones in princely settings — at Les Ambassadeurs.

Since jewels look almost as good against the neck as on ink blue velvet, one's eyes were drawn towards the guests whose show of spandrels outshone the chandeliers.

Personally I fancied the sapphires (more discreet than emeralds or rubies, if you believe the press release.) You can feast your eyes and have your money all this week.

■ To the strains of Fred Astaire, the models pranced out to prove you can wear Gloria Vanderbilt's jeans anywhere. Even to a weight-watchers' meeting.

I hope I never have to walk up the avenue belted in a couple of extra smalls wearing jeans. The two biggest (sic) stars at Gloria Vanderbilt's show last week made even the well-endowed Diana Dors (in the audience in powder-blue trouser-suit) look positively svelte.

If you are well over size 16 and really want to be seen in jeans, you can now get them (up to 40in waist) from branches of Debenhams and Evans Outside.

The Royal Wedding Thimble

The thimble will surely appear on July 26th when H.R.H. Prince of Wales weds Lady Diana "Spreet" in St. Paul's, as what will undoubtedly be a truly memorable, historic and unique occasion. The item in the Times will surely be the future Queen and we will have a unique tribute to the Royal couple, the wedding thimble, in the hands of the bride.

The design in royal blue leaves the couple's names and wedding date in scrolls, beneath the Crown and the motto of the Prince of Wales, and the thimble is encircled with a band of pure gold.

Autumnally housed in a comes complete with a Certificate of Authenticity, and represents an excellent value at only £4.95 (on basis of 1.17 p.p.p. and overseas or £4.95 for £4.95 a limited number of items of the same design are left in the same price. Demand is certain to be high and production is limited, collectors are therefore, advised to order early. Credit Cards are welcome and buyers may telephone their order to us at 01-262-1555; 24 hours, or by letter, quoting Card Number 10.

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Waddington Gallery

with brass) already makes these sculptures more approachable, and the surface interest is diversified with artful patinas in green and rose, and in the one or two recently installed cast-aspens, a warm, rosy, lustrous burn. Then there are pieces called *Centre Court*, *Buddha Peach*, *Let's See* and *Brandy Alexander*. Make of that what you will, but it is as if you are trying to puzzle them out, even while one recognizes the perfect seriousness of Caro's sculptural intentions.

At both Frink, at Waddington's until June 27, has fined down her figure-sculptures and become back a lot nearer to literal representation since she first made a major impression in the late sixties with her *Running Man* as the *Running Man* of 1960. They are still impressive and strongly personal, though it seems to me quite acceptable to prefer the related drawings. The variations are not so great, but they do create telling outlines, and it is a subject surprisingly infrequent in the lengthy annals of horse-sculpture. But some of the others, such as the equine figures and dogs, though very dust and dust, do not strike me as a bit on the ordinary side. Still, the more interesting *Running Man* and some of the heads which are the same apparent effort—these are Classical Greek in sculpture appear to be the latest, so it is entirely possible that Frink is finding a satisfactory new convention for her sculpture after a period of uncertainty.

John Russell Taylor

es are made". He links this to Leavis's epistemology, his openness to particularity, his invulnerability to closed systems and absolute theories. This contrast has implications for the life of Western culture that extend far beyond the academic study of literature. Mr Strickland, with his generosity to those he opposes, and his intellectual curiosity and linguistic skills, is a "formidable defendant of criticism". Which needed one.

A. S. Byatt

A. S. Byatt

Ravel without profundity

Since 1973, when Christopher Wood founded his Academy, great progress has been made in the performance of eighteenth-century music on "authentic" or original instruments. Indeed, it is now more common to hear baroque works than modern ones. Sunday night's concert of music by Telemann and Vivaldi reflected admirably the achievements of the past few years, illustrating the highest standards of musical techniques and ensemble playing. The evening was devoted to three unusual works by the prolific Telemann, beginning with a "Concerto Polonois" — a lightweight piece in contrast in the conventional Polish style — and ending with the "Barbatic Chorus" of the

peasant fiddling which the composer encountered around 1705 when he spent some time in the Cracow region.

The more orthodox influence of Vivaldi was clearly evident in the second piece, a concerto in C major for four violins, but Telemann's quest for originality was assuaged by his readiness to dispense with the usual orchestral accompaniment.

The suite *Burlesque de Quixotte* in turn illustrated not only contemporary Frenchified manners in its standardized overture, but showed considerable imagination in the ensuing movements, which were depicted as comic episodes from the adventures of Cervantes's hero, including agitated semibreves for the attack on the windmills, languishing appoggiaturas for the amorous sighs, a clapping gait for Sancho Panza's mule and sticky drones for the don's rest.

The second half of the concert offered four of Vivaldi's

and more familiar concertos tor-
turing, including his experimen-
tation in the buccino vein, the
concerto in G "Alla Rustica," and
the most portentous of his
— *L'Estro Armonico* set, opus 3 No.
11, neatly executed by the
smaller ensemble with John
Holloway and Katherine
MacIntosh as eloquent soloists.
Christopher Hirotsu offered a
cool but nicely balanced in-
terpretation of the Spring
Concerto from *The Four Sea-
sons* while John Holloway who
returned as soloist for the
Summer Concerto seemed de-
termined to prove that tradi-
tional instrumental technique can
be as expressive as the most
modern successors, wallowing
indulgently with an unusual
degree of rhythmic liberty, and
portentously in the more sultry
moments of the opening allegro
and exaggerating the in-
petuousness of the final presto.

London debuts

Jaromír Váňka pined for the "dark" sound of the *Heiku*, a well-balanced work which developed the full colour range of the guitar, from a brittle metallic tinkle to more sensuous textures juxtaposed with Ravel's very quieting. Here, in his own work, he seemed to find the musicality so lacking elsewhere and it must be said that of the two players he seemed to be the less prone to accident. The *Heiku* by Leclerc was rather more successful. His teacher, Pierre Rournier, has dubbed him "a great talent", and this is probably true, but both his interpretation and his technical command of the instrument seem to be done. Leclerc did not make life easy for himself by attempting the Kodaly Sonata for unaccompanied cello, which must be pretty well the most difficult work in the instrument's repertoire. Although he attacked it with plenty of guts and spirit, there seemed little between the dynamic extremes. The fine line between loud and noisy was too often crossed with detrimental results to both tonal colour and intonation.

At the start of the recital, perhaps because of the tension of the occasion, too much pressure was applied to the strings and too many of the notes were cut short in order to sustain an aggressive attitude. The two last works, the last work played, Stravinsky's *Suite* *Iladen*.

Simon Mundy

Hungarian music on display

You could say that the Hungarians are uncommonly good hosts, anxious that never for a second should their foreign guests feel unentertained. Or you could say that in their small country, so bursting with talent, they are urgently need to find work for their own artists overseas. Both would be equally true. For after young visitors from all corners of the globe, ever since the stage each day throughout the recent Interforum 1961, each evening brought a special concert designed for the delectation of guests while also putting in representative samples of the best of Hungarian musical activity in the shop-window.

Nothing was more stimulating than the farewell event in Budapest by the Ferenc Liszt Chamber Orchestra, a conditionless spring of brilliant, tireless strong (plus harpisonic) chords, the more so since it allowed us to visit the recently restored Vigadó Hall, overlooking the Danube. Though a recording session prevented the use of the big auditorium, the orchestra was a fiery, with its enormous cantablas and warm acoustics, happily accommodated performers and guests for a programme of W. F. Bach, Mozart and finally Berlioz's *Mozartiana*. The latter, with its particularly acute blend of the pungent and mysterious.

In the music room of the Festetics Palace at Keszthely,

the chosen venue for Interforum 1981, the series predictably began with a Bartók chamber concert memorable for an exceptionally intense and creditworthy account of the second string quartet from the Rakets Quartet: winners of recent contests at Evian and Portsmouth and more than able to uphold Hungary's noble string quartet tradition. The dramatic overture for Veronika Dráms was perhaps even too big and professional for folk-song arrangements. The pianist Imre Rohmann had great luck while (like several others) his kind began during the week) slightly underestimating the room's problematical reverberance in his chosen solos.

Mr Rohmann was again very audible the following night when, still more ambitiously, larger forces were transported to the Rospini's *Pavane messes solennelle* in his original version with piano and harmonium. The firmly-focused tone and maliceful phrasing of the Budapest Madrigal Ensemble (conducted by another pupil of Kodály, left no doubt as to how much the country owes to that great choral teacher.

Soloists included the full-throated tenor, Andras Molnar, the contralto, Clara Tokody, a smooth-flowing voice of cream, and the by now well-known soprano Ilona Tokody, swooping as ever though margin-

ally too willing to disrupt line in the pursuit of expression.

Nor were the very old and new forgotten. The gory castle of Sárovar, an hour or so's drive from Budapest, was a place of resort for the old music, with its traditional items emerging more colourful than Telemann (and others) from the Collegium Musicum, but with the Budapesters' own music in the Herzog's hall. The programmatic Renaissance *Noise*, beautifully performed by the Glyndebourne-born Adrienne Csemegery and Gabor Takacs-Nagy, stood out enough to explain its composer's international renown.

László Sárý's ingenious Sonata No 2 for percussion and flute also explained why the flautist Dávid Drabos, with his superlative dynamic control, had been chosen by Hungary as one of its entrants for Intercontinent itself.

Even the journey back from Keszthely to Budapest was broken at Tihany not just to admire its twin-towered church, one of the oldest in the land, but to enjoy a panoramic view of the lake Balaton, to sample a dignified recital of Bach and Mendelssohn by the soprano Katalin Schütz, and the organist Susan Elekess.

Joan Crookall

Cox accepts the challenge

John Cox director of production at Glyndebourne, has decided to put himself to the test and has accepted the post of general administrator of the opera house. He will take up next June, 18 months after the departure from Glasgow of Peter Ebert.

He realizes just what a test it will be, for Ebert has been successful in disastrous trouble financially, and with both its administration and its artistic standards suffering as well as the company's work cut out simply to survive.

Although Cox does not leave Glyndebourne until next summer, he will be involved in the planning of the Scottish Opera over the next year; among his other activities will be in Scotland to produce Cavalli's *L'Egisto* for the year.

Once he takes over as general administrator, he will produce one opera a year for the company, but no more. Scottish Opera, says Cox, is not to be run on the lines of an administrative job which overrules both the appealing financial position and the artistic side. He is not going to be "the man in the middle" in the European sense.

■ The recital by Mstislav and Elena Rostropovich at the Benson and Hedges Music Festival at Aldeburgh on September 29 has been cancelled because of what the festival describes as "contractual difficulties over broadcasting". A recital shared by Sarah Walker and Nigel Kennedy will be presented instead.

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The message we must give Mr Suzuki

by Edward Heath

The visit to London of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Zenko Suzuki, which begins today, has received far less attention than last week's state visit of King Khalid of Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, the increasing contribution which Japan can make towards the maintenance of the world-wide interests both have in common is often ignored in the frenzy of bilateral trade disputes which have come to dominate the relationship. This is to be regretted for several reasons.

First, if bilateral trade issues remain the centrepiece of the relationship, it will become so demoralising for both sides that the prospects for constructive partnership will be progressively eroded.

Second, much could be done to correct Japan's lopsided trade balance with Europe if greater emphasis were placed on other, more promising, aspects of their economic relationship, notably direct investment by Japan in Europe. This would help to reconcile Japan's understandable desire to preserve a reasonable share of the European market with our need to increase employment, boost exports and keep abreast of the newest techniques of management, production and marketing.

Experience has shown how successful Japanese direct investment in the United Kingdom can be. For example, the television factory set up by Sony at Bridgend in Wales now produces one quarter of all British television exports. In addition, it supplies to the United Kingdom market almost half as many television sets as we import directly from Japan, a fact which ensures for this country a continuing flow of jobs and saves it a great deal of foreign exchange.

That this is a logical way to

deal with major trade imbalances has already been demonstrated by the Americans back in the 1950s and 1960s. Indeed, it was only by massive United States investment in European subsidiaries—whose sales in 1968 totalled nearly four times the value of direct American exports of manufacturers to the EEC—that the growth of an unmanageable trade gap between the United States and the EEC was avoided.

Thirdly, the failure to develop other areas of the Japanese-European relationship, apart from bilateral trade, is a waste of opportunities for cooperation which could be of major importance to the political, economic, and strategic interests of both sides.

At the broadest level, a deeper partnership between Japan and Europe could take much of the strain off their respective relationships with the United States. If successful it would both increase their confidence and status vis-à-vis Washington and take some of the spotlight off their continuing dependence on its security guarantees.

Specifically, there are four main areas in which we need to seek closer cooperation with Japan: in the development of advanced technology; in the management of world monetary affairs; in diplomacy; and in the sphere of military safety.

Co-operation in the development of advanced technology is particularly important where the United States is overwhelmingly dominant in the world market. Aerospace computers and the creation of new and more efficient methods of generating energy are three areas where a vast amount of money, skill and time could be saved if only Europe and Japan would work together as partners rather than face each other as competitors.

Such co-operation would also



Mr Suzuki: more than trade to talk about.

demonstrate to public opinion the practical benefits of this partnership, just as the successful Airbus project has done inside the European Community.

The management of the international monetary system increasingly requires close cooperation between Japan and Europe, which are together responsible for over 40 per cent of world trade. Although cooperation between central bankers is already well advanced, it must be a prime task for them to coordinate the policies of the European Monetary System with those of Japan and her South-East Asian partners. The joint management

of the world's monetary arrangements by the major economic regions—Europe, the Far East and the US—has been essential to the stability of the international currencies, which our investors and industrial managers so badly need.

Diplomatically, there is a great deal that Japan and Europe can do to help each other reduce the conspicuousness of their economic and political involvement in sensitive developing countries. For example, greater European cooperation with Japanese economic enterprise in Indonesia, Malaysia and other members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), could help to reduce the visibility of the Japanese presence in these countries, and thereby enhance its acceptability in the eyes of local public opinion.

In the long term, this would be economically beneficial to both Europe and Japan; and it would help to cement the political ties with the ASEAN countries, none of which wants to be conspicuously identified with just one in particular of the advanced industrialized nations.

In the sphere of defence, it is becoming ever more important for Japan and Europe quietly to coordinate their views in the fields of military strategy and arms control. Although they do not have any formal responsibility for each other's defence, the security of the Pacific and European theatres is increasingly linked; and the possible shift of military equipment between Europe and the Far East in the event of a conflict in one of these regions makes it essential for Japan and Europe to agree on when and how this would be done. Any absence of agreement in the event of a crisis could profoundly endanger the long-term cohesion and security of the West as a whole.

However, it will not pay to

put pressure on Japan substantially to increase her defence expenditure or to expand her military effort beyond her immediate perimeter. There is a deeply-rooted consensus almost the entire political spectrum in Japan. To ignore it will bring only frustration to the Europeans.

It would make far more sense for us to press Japan to assume a more audacious diplomatic and economic role in the world, and particularly in South East Asia. Japan's discreet efforts to maintain communication between Peking and Hanoi at the time of Vietnam in 1979 showed how important she could be in helping to arrest a military conflict which was in danger of serious escalation.

For all their rhetoric about the interests and values which they share, the leaders of Japan and Europe have so far done little to develop these avenues for constructive partnership. One reason for this is that they tend to see their respective relationships with the United States as an adequate basis on which to construct their foreign policies. New attitudes will not be easy to forge.

It would be a tragedy if they were only to follow upon a series of rude shocks to our expectations of America's ability and willingness to uphold our interests; or if they have to await a major crisis in the Japanese-European relationship, due to unbearable frictions in bilateral trade. They will certainly require many more high-level contacts, such as today's visit of the Japanese prime minister; for a growing network of communications at all levels is vital to the development of an effective political partnership between Europe and Japan.

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Why the lion of Iran no longer roars

From a distance he looks like Groucho Marx. His puckered cheeks give him an unfortunate, supercilious look. His handshake is cold and unmoving, that of a man whose thoughts are on totally different planes. Now the diminutive President Bani-Sadr of Iran finds himself at the centre of a political storm that threatens to obliterate him.

Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr has lived the whole of his life in opposition to the rulers of Iran. But he would not have imagined he would one day continue that role as the President of the country's first Islamic Republic.

Today, in the 17th month of his presidency, he is on the brink of being declared an outright heretic by the country's ruler, Ayatollah Khomeini. The threat of dismissal, even death, hangs over him. All because he talks too much and too out of tune with the reluctant, provincial, religious fundamentalism that has swept the country.

"He made too much noise," one slightly sympathetic government official told me. "He was like a roaring lion. He also made the wrong friends."

That Mr Bani-Sadr aligned himself with the underground Mujahedin Khalq guerrilla organization, denounced as hypocrites by Ayatollah Khomeini. He also aligned himself with members of the dismissed liberal Provisional Government. The fact that he had once publicly opposed the views of both groups painted him as an opportunist in many people's eyes.

That might be true. But it also reflected the President's overriding view that the way to an honest and open Islamic society lay in freedom of expression for all who did not violently oppose the regime.

The seeds of this wide-ranging idealism, so counter to the philosophy of his fundamentalist opponents, was sown virtually from birth. Bani-Sadr was born in March 1933, the son of a prominent ayatollah and had a strict religious upbringing which still shows in his ideology.

Later he threw himself into the political fray behind the now officially reviled nationalist leader, Mohammad Mossadegh, in the crisis years of the early 1950s. After the Shah's 1953 coup he joined the underground movement, coming into close contact at one point with the prominent religious leader, Ayatollah Taleghani, whose ideas leaned towards the Islamic Marxism of the Mujahedin Khalq than the mainstream fundamentalist clergy.

After studying in a theological faculty and obtaining a BA in economics from Tehran University, Bani-Sadr turned himself into the 1963 revolution led by Ayatollah Khomeini. After four months in jail as a result, he went into exile with his young wife for three years.

He studied in Paris, the eternal student too busy in political activities to complete his thesis. It was there he re-emerged in the mainstream of the Khomeini movement. When the Ayatollah was forced to Paris from his exile in Iraq he first stayed in Mr Bani-Sadr's cramped apartment.

Even after he moved to a more spacious home in the village of Neuf-Chateau, Mr Bani-Sadr was among the Ayatollah's three closest advisers. He continued to play a role in the Ayatollah on the fateful flight to Tehran in February 1979.

Perhaps he would have been wise to have spent the flight reading the Ayatollah's book on "religious guardianship". He might have understood the Ayatollah's real intentions: a regime in which the turbulent wise men of Islam laid down the rules to be carried out by the government.

His was a curious, and at times almost incredible, mixture of Islam and Marxism. Thus some would call him a mullah without a turban, while

others said he was more Marxist than Muslim. He believed in the masses owning the means of production, and was a prime mover of the seeping nationalization of banking, insurance and major industries that followed the revolution. But at the same time he favoured a society in which the worker was so spiritually at one with God that if necessary, he was prepared to work for nothing.

He was vehemently anti-American, although his outspoken criticism of the hostage-taking did much to pit him against the fundamentalists. Yet at the same time he favoured close cooperation with Europe and Japan.

Above all he was proponent of near absolute freedom, believing that political disputes should be solved by debate rather than a gun. He could never bring himself to share the fundamentalists' view that only the devout and committed Muslim had a right to share the spoils of the revolution. He believed the nation needed experts whether they were pious Muslims or not.

His basic strategy after his election as President in January last year, by an overwhelming



Mr Bani-Sadr: trapped by a Khomeini confrontation.

75 per cent of the votes, was to speak in open and sometimes defiant defence of the "people's rights". His built-up a huge following that he could count on after the end of the Gulf war and the death of Ayatollah Khomeini.

But his opponents were wise to the ploy. The President was eventually trapped in the dilemma he had tried to avoid—of openly confronting Ayatollah Khomeini himself. Ayatollah's influence remains so strong that the people the President counted on—had to count on in the absence of any other real power—finally voted with their feet, by staying at home.

But long before this open breach had become clear that the Ayatollah never fully trusted the President. He viewed him as a Western-orientated intellectual, and Mr Bani-Sadr did little to alter that opinion.

Whatever the outcome of the present crisis, however, the Ayatollah may consider that the President has served his purpose. Like the Bazarang government before him, the ascent of Mr Bani-Sadr bought time for the fundamentalists, giving them a respite from the less committed while the work of restructuring the country progressed in the background. And as Commander-in-Chief, he was able to pull the armed forces together, despite the shattering repercussions of the revolution and the purges after last year's alleged coup attempt, and keep the Iraqis at bay.

Tony Allaway

There is no other strategy

Undo the Budget and save 100,000 jobs

The headline on David Blake's article, June 1

The value of David Blake's three-part review of possible alternatives to the Government's economic strategy (this page, June 1, 2 and 3) is indicated by the high cost at which even marginal, short-lived gains in employment might be bought.

With the help of the Treasury model and the Economist Intelligence Unit, Mr Blake offered a surprising list of possible alternatives. The first was a "reflation" of £4,000m to reduce unemployment by 100,000 and increase output by 1 per cent—at the cost of slightly higher interest rates and inflation. The second was an engineered fall by 20 per cent in the exchange rate to boost manufactured output by 5 per cent and raise employment by 400,000—at the cost of a rapid rise in inflation to 15 per cent, and a 14 per cent rise in 1984 when living standards would be cut 3 per cent in real terms as British exports exchanged for fewer imports.

The final solution was the variant favoured by Mr Bean of combining a considered protective tariff (of 30 per cent) with a larger "reflation" (of £6,000m) for the speculative prize of perhaps 600,000 more jobs—at the cost of inflation rising to 20 per cent next year, lower living standards to finance higher investment, and fading growth by 1984 "unless another boost was given".

In my view the costs would be more certain than the hoped-for benefits, and all mean turning our back on the battle we are waging against inflation. But even on David Blake's showing none of the three options was expected to bring unemployment below 3.05-3.38m by 1984. Against these hypothetical prospects I was tempted to get inflation below 10 per cent by 1984 with slightly higher living standards—at the cost of unemployment rising to 3.5m.

For a socialist politician or trade union leader the matter is rhetoric to be relapsed into dreams of some new kind of "reflation" that need not have the admittedly unpleasant inflationary results embodied in these models from past ex-

perience. For the thoughtful voter, who might sum up the alternatives as a choice between the devil of faster reflation or the deep blue sea of rising unemployment, the commonsense response is to pause and ask a question: with a supplementary in reserve.

The obvious question is whether any model or relationship between thousands of variables in a complex economy can be assumed to offer a mechanism of certainty about the results of changes in policy—or even the outcome of present policies. Since the answer must be "no", the supplementary asks itself: What kinds of feasible changes might help us to reconcile the Government's sensible aim of reducing inflation with the obviously desirable objective of reducing unemployment?

The key to a more hopeful answer requires a humble acceptance of one reality: the reality that has been taught by repeated post-war experience but that many still struggle to resist because the old illusion was so comforting. This still imperfectly perceived reality is that no government has the power to control the level of employment—at least without a battery of powers that would rest ultimately upon the constitution and direction of labour.

After 1945, in the age of Keynesian innocence, Labour and Tory Chancellors believed that all unemployment above a fractional minimum was due to

deficient demand. So long as reflation was kept within limits, pumping more money into the economy would draw idle men and machines into productive employment without sacrificing stable prices. But once the discipline of fixed exchange rates was broken—and Britain's first devaluation came in 1949—it was inevitable that politicians in their unending quest of something for nothing would always be tempted to overdo monetary expansion.

And so we learnt the hard way that the snag with "reflation" is that it can so easily dissipate its impact by pushing up prices rather than boosting employment and real output.

In a forthcoming IEA Hobart Paper, *How to End the "Monetarist" Controversy*, Samuel Brittan explains the mixture of reasons why successive efforts to spend our way into higher employment have landed us instead with ever rising levels of both inflation and unemployment.

For example, between 1974 and 1979 total spending was increased by more than 120 per cent, but less than 10 per cent went on higher output while the dominant effect was to raise prices by 110 per cent—without reversing the rising trend of unemployment.

The commanding reality is that the Treasury and Bank of England can deploy fiscal and monetary policy to control the level of total spending, but they cannot control the division be-

tween increased employment and higher prices. That critical division depends on the responsiveness of labour markets and especially on the decisions made by employers and workers about wages paid for differing levels of efficiency.

Thus the Government's strategy of slowing down the increase in the money supply is not inconsistent with reducing unemployment. The necessary link is that current wage bargaining must leave employers with an incentive to raise and pay more workers and sell their product in competitive markets. Elementary economic analysis confirms the promptings of common sense.

At any level of monetary demand, job prospects must depend crucially on the cost of employing workers compared with the value of their marketable output. In the private sector there is at last wide acceptance of that truism, and the public sector is being taught that the discipline of fixed exchange rates was broken—and Britain's first devaluation came in 1949—it was inevitable that politicians in their unending quest of something for nothing would always be tempted to overdo monetary expansion.

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When one is enough of a good thing

New words and new meanings: an occasional series by Philip Howard

There are black holes in language as there are in the theoretical physics. George Foulkes, the Member for South Ayrshire, fell into one the other day when he tabled a question for the Secretary of State for Wales of all people.

He asked him to fix the way the well-known awkward position for-lying for all except the most advanced yogis.

A pop song, I'm not in love by 10cc, had a line explaining why the boy has hung a photograph of the girl on his wall, even though he is not in love with her. It is to "hide a nasty stain that's lying there". The only way I can think of to fill such gaps is for journalists collectively to agree on a suitable neologism and then insist on using it. Journalists are not inclined to such collective action. But if the need really exists, we shall evolve the word.

More possible black holes: We have no anonymity to the Civil Service. It is a high-flyer. Would that be a high-flyer, or a deep-plumber? In either case he sounds more agreeable than a high-flyer.

Why is there no adjective from the noun "integrity"? An MP recently complained that his requests for a particular course of action had been treated with complete "ignorance". Do we need the word?

Are the jocular antonyms "grunted" and "heavily" going to be made respectable by adoption into the formal lexicon of English?

Is there a black hole to convey exactly the sense of the French, when one feels "de trop" at a gathering? "Superfluous" is too mild; "intruder" too strong; "gooseberry" comes close, but is too resented.

These are all puzzling black holes, but beyond all conjecture. If there is a need, we shall find the words.

A recent issue of the *Brighton Evening Argus* carried an illustration of "the proud plaque that lies on the wall" of a local hospital. The plaque, which is proud because it is crowned with the Prince of Wales's Feathers, is not strictly speaking a plaque, but a shield, the well-known awkward position for-lying for all except the most advanced yogis.

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Going Dutch, the donnish disciples of pop

This item should be read in the hushed, husky, late-night, reverential tones used on BBC 2's *The Old Grey Whistle Test*.

Academics from throughout the world will be on the gravel train to Amsterdam this weekend for what is believed to be the first international conference on popular music. (I, for one, believe it.)

Up to 120 musicologists, sociologists and "communication studies specialists" are to spend five days at the Jaap Kunst Centre in the University of Amsterdam, discussing folk, jazz, rock and pop.

Russians, Roumanians and Americans will rub shoulders with delegates from north-west Europe at the conference, which is subsidised by the Dutch Arts Council to the tune of 22,000 guilders (about £1,500).

Renaissance and punk will all feature, together with the more traditional heavy rock and folk. The last session of the conference will explore the idea of an international society for people interested in popular music research.

David Horn, an assistant librarian at the University of Exeter, who is helping to organize the gathering, says it reflects the growing academic interest in popular music. In 1978 Horn, a keen blues and jazz fan, organized a small all-British conference on similar lines in

Exeter. Later this year he and Richard Middleton, an Open University lecturer in music, are to launch the first academic journal devoted to pop music. A Yearbook of Popular Music, which will be published by Cambridge University Press around Christmas, will include in its first issue, an article by the Professor of Music at York University, on the music of Bob Dylan and Meaning in the recent songs of Bob Dylan, a piece by Simon Frith, an academic from Warwick University, on "The Magic that can set you free: the ideology of folk and the myth of the rock community" and an item on the popular music of Afghanistan.

I fear Mr Horn may get some stick when those titles are published. I'm only surprised that no one has thought of such a journal before.

Stigwood style

Impresario Robert Stigwood (*Grease*, *Evita*, *Saturday Night Fever*) arrived in London yesterday for one of his frequent visits, rather different style from his first trip 25 years ago when he turned up from his native Australia with £3 in his pocket, dysentery and a dose of cosmic ambition.

With his friends, Mr and Mrs David Frost, on board Stigwood arrived in his £600,000 yacht *Sarina* (217½ crew of 20, bought from Lord Guinness) and parked opposite the Tower of London. He is here for a two-week working holiday after sailing from Cannes via Portugal.

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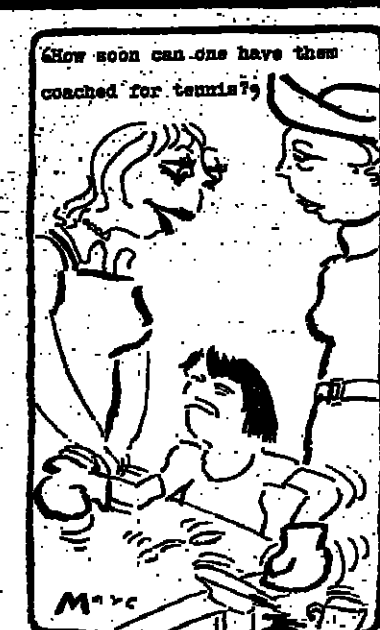
When is a hotel not a hotel? According to astonished representatives of *Eyre Methuen*, when it's *The Ireland*. The publishing house made the discovery on the eve of paperback publication of one of Ireland's best-selling books, *The Ballymaloe Cookbook*, which gives recipes from that gourmet's paradise, Ballymaloe House in County Cork.

The Irish Tourist Board was enthusiastic when *Methuen* suggested a joint promotion—until it discovered that the front cover, by

Myrtle Allen, who presides over the establishment's famous kitchen, refers to Ballymaloe House as a hotel. It's not a hotel, it's a guest house, said the board. Even though it's Grade A and of international fame, *Methuen* suggested that hotel should be regarded as a generic term encompassing subordinate species. Sorry, replied the board, the accommodation is rigidly classified to maintain standards; it could not participate so long as the offending designation remained. Too late to change the cover, *Methuen* are now having to pay for the whole promotion campaign.

Lazard of the left

Francette Lazard has a famous name—she is the granddaughter of the man who was largely responsible for putting the prestige merchant bank on its feet. However, there is now just a chance that Francette may become famous in her own right, but for reasons her grandfather could never have expected. The Socialist landslide in France has all but put an end to speculation about who might be chosen from among the ranks of the Communist Party to hold a government post. But there is still a chance that, for the coming year, Communist could be given an un-



important job—and Francette is front-runner. A film brunette, with an elfin face, she is one of the starlets of the French Communist Party. Last Sunday she sat on the right hand of Georges Marchais, her leader, when he faced the Press to defend his party's poor showing and while he scowled, she beamed. She joined the party straight after university and has spent her entire career in the CP, concentrating on the press side. Two years ago she was made a

member of the party politburo. She is leader of the so-called "Marchais gang", which is why she could expect Marchais's support for a government post if the chance is offered to the party.

Ascot changes

Royal Ascot will no doubt be wall-to-wall Moss Bros again this week. But I hear there should be some sartorial changes among the men in the Royal Enclosure this year. The outfitters themselves, for instance, are encouraging their customers to vary their accessories and to don vivid shirts and ties. At the same time, they are pushing the pale grey morning coats, even silver ones. I hope that Prince Charles, who has to be in New York on Wednesday for a gala performance by the Royal Ballet, will not miss all this. I rather enjoy the way he lives up his own clothes with flowers and bright handkerchiefs. He would approve of this trend. I'm not sure whether the Duke of Windsor approved of Moss Bros, when he was Prince of Wales, before the war. Sooty Harry Moss, across the course, the then Prince is reputed to have called out: "Afternoon Moss... stock taking?"

Behind the laughs

The making of *Bud 'n' Ches-* ATV's tribute to the Bud Flanagan-Chesney Allen comedy partnership, which is being shown throughout Britain tonight—was by all accounts an emotional affair. Both Leslie Crowther and Bernie Winters, who play Chesney and Bud

respectively, were in tears at the first rehearsal, when they sang the songs made famous by the great comic idols of their youth.

For Bernie it was particularly moving. When it comes to the point in the script where illness forces Chesney to end the partnership and Bud sings *Any Unlucky Stars*, Bernie breaks down and cries in front of the cameras.

Bernie told me: "I was also part of a double act for 30 years. It ended nearly three years ago. Bud married a dancer. I married a dancer. He had one son, I have one son. We were very similar."

Jon Scofield, director/producer of the programme, decided not to cut the take in which Bernie breaks down. His tears are as much a measure of his own sadness at the parting with his brother Mike as a tribute to the end of Bud and Ches's partnership.

Plans for a summer festival in Margaret Thatcher's home town of Grantham, Lincolnshire—Isabelle, the most boring place in Britain—have been cancelled for lack of interest. A former mayor, Councillor Paddy Perry, thought up the idea for later this month: "I thought it might be a bit boring. But although 150 organizations were asked to take part, only two replied."

Grantham was dubbed the most boring town in Britain in a Radio 4 survey earlier this year. Young listeners moaned that all there was to do was booze and go to the cinema.

Peter Watson

lion
no
oars



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A CABINET MARKING TIME BUT NOT IN STEP

The cabinet meeting tomorrow provides a rare opportunity for the Government to appraise the economic strategy. Nobody will stand on the steps of Downing Street announcing decisions, but the meeting has real choices and it has considerable symbolic importance. The investment is that, two years into its term, the Government is waiting for something to turn up. All the main indicators of the economy are stuck, with the exception of unemployment which is on a trend to reach 3 million by the end of next year. In the spring we were led to believe that growth was round the corner. In the summer, the duty of telling the nation the recession is not over has been assumed by the Leader of the House, Mr Francis Pym, who is presumably cast as Cassandra simply because he is the only senior Minister who has not been saying the opposite in the previous months.

An end to the drop in output by the end of this summer, which is possible, would not bode well for the Government. The modest restocking but the best forecast is for output to stay flat. Certainly predictions for sustained recovery are premature and the immobilism is accompanied by something which strikes to the heart of everything the Government has set out to achieve. The fall in inflation, which has been its single economic achievement, is coming to an end. There is no prospect of single figure inflation by the end of this year. Worse, there is no real likelihood of that next year either. Indeed, inflation may rise again next year before falling back to about 10 per cent.

This would be a political disaster for the Government, carrying with it a threat of further wage inflation. The falling inflation has helped to drive down the level of settlements inherited from Labour but a recurrence bodes ill for an average settlement of around 5 per cent or less which we need if there is to be any improvement in Britain's competitive position. The Government's chosen main weapon for restoring growth, a cut in minimum lending rates from 14 to 12 per cent, is in jeopardy also and in its place a fear that interest rates may have to move up, not down, in the months ahead. It is not all gloom. There are too many stories of companies which have used the recession to cut out decades of inefficiency and over-manning for them all to be false. The money supply seems to be growing roughly in line with the Government's target if the distorting effects of the Civil Service strike are ruled out. And the firm stand against the Civil Service unions has been exemplary.

Delicate choices

But putting together every scrap of optimism does suggest that the Government risks going into the next election with things not actually getting worse rather than getting positively better. The fissionable Labour Party is unattractive and the Social Democrats are unproven; but it would be a dangerous Government which would hope to win an election by announcing it had succeeded in doubling unemployment, reducing national output, and keeping inflation near 10 per cent, a little above the level in the last months of the Labour Government.

The Government is therefore faced with delicate political and economic choices. If it continues along its present course, it is not doomed to electoral defeat, but it will not be able to win the election on its own merits. Mrs Thatcher must surely calculate on the basis of an election in the autumn of 1983. If things are going badly then she can delay until the spring of 1984 but Mr Callaghan's example should be a warning to her of how dangerous it is to risk a final disruptive winter. To stand a reasonable chance in October 1983, the Government must be able to point to evidence of economic improvement by the autumn of 1982. This means either that Ministers at tomorrow's meeting must be confident that present policies will by then be seen to be successful or that the necessary corrective measures

will be taken by this autumn at the latest.

The Government has so far set itself a single economic target, the reduction of inflation, with the single weapon of monetary control. It has not had a policy for Sterling, it has not had a policy for investment and its policy for wages has amounted to leaving it to unemployment and the fall of inflation. It is doubtful if inflation can be defeated by determination and monetarism; it is certain that a national recovery cannot be achieved that way.

The most likely course is for the Government to declare that it is redoubling its efforts to conquer inflation but if this should be the outcome tomorrow, Ministers will have to recognize what it entails. It will only become a usable card in the next election if the Government can show that inflation is significantly lower than when Labour left office. That has to mean getting it down to around 5-7 per cent. It is an admirable target but achieving it will need some steel and a lot of luck. The spending cuts that have eluded the Government for so long will have to be made and they will be painful. The election pledges which hedged in the Chancellor before his Budget this year will have to be broken. That could mean cuts in pensions, or cuts in the health service or defence, two areas which have so far escaped. It will mean a much tougher attitude towards jobs in the Civil Service. The lesson of the past two years is that these cuts are extremely hard to achieve with the best will in the world. In a Cabinet where most of the spending ministers are out of sympathy with the whole philosophy of cutting spending, they are almost impossible. Even within the Treasury there is a resigned acceptance that at the end of the summer a bitter argument about spending cuts will develop and we will be lucky to emerge without further spending increases.

Inflation the first enemy

Ministers will have to reconcile themselves, further, to the fact that if they choose to attack inflation as their prime target, they will have to abandon their hopes of big tax cuts. When they came to power, the Conservatives hoped to achieve a big reduction in the burden of taxation. They talked of a 25 per cent standard rate. It is doubtful now if the Government can even return the level of direct taxation to what it was after its first Budget.

There is, in short, a price to be paid for an anti-inflation policy which consists of high interest rates, high exchange rates and tight fiscal control. The political price is obvious and the economic price is that a renewed attack on inflation, especially if accompanied with higher interest rates, arrives with it at least a short-term worsening of the recession.

There are two further steps which would fit well with a recommitment to the strategy of making inflation the first enemy. All Ministers should be asked to throw their weight behind a campaign for realism in pay; people in work have had an unjustified rise in their living standards at the high cost to the unemployed and those on a fixed income. Secondly, the Cabinet can overrule Mr Prior's Fabianism and insist on attacking trade union restrictive practices which add to costs and limit opportunity.

There would be some turmoil in attempting all this. There would be a year, perhaps, in which living standards would fall. There would be a need for tough nerves and a united Cabinet before the benefits could start to be felt. But a demonstration that this was to be the policy would give credibility and coherence back to an increasingly tattered strategy.

What is the alternative if Ministers think that the price of this policy is too high? A general reflation of the kind the Labour Party advocates is political and economic suicide. Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe in particular have set such store by the determination to avoid U-turns that they would be subject to ridicule if they were seen to change their policy so abruptly. If the new policies were successful that would be seen not so much as a justification of ministerial wisdom in

switching course as a condemnation of ministerial pique during their first two and half years in office. There is only a limited amount, therefore, that the Government can do without inviting ridicule and stoking up inflation to a dangerous degree. Any honest alternative from the "wets" has to start out from the fact that it must concentrate on ways of boosting the economy without pushing up the underlying inflation rate too much.

The measures they can advocate are those which increase demand and yet curb inflation. We need to cut company costs in employing labour and increase the incentive to invest in the capital equipment which is needed to modernize our industry. There is a ready means available for cutting labour costs. The surcharge on National Insurance contributions is a fit subject for criticism. A phased reduction of the National Insurance charge would reduce inflation and raise output.

The second main area where an alternative policy could increase output without necessarily increasing inflation is by the stimulation of investment. Investment in the private sector is inhibited by the lack of demand, the high rate of return required and the fact that many companies find it impossible to offset the cost against tax on their profits because they have not been making any profits. There is a question mark also against our financial system which makes borrowing for consumption and inflation relatively easy by comparison with borrowing for investment. Changes in that area will take a decade, on recent experience, but on taxation the Government could look again at the scheme proposed by the Confederation of British Industry which would give interest relief to companies not making enough to pay tax on profits. It goes without saying that the "wets" should also resist any further raising of interest rates. In the public sector, a purchaser is hard to be pressed for further capital investment in the soundest schemes. The candidates are well known, ranging from the Channel tunnel to the modernization of our phone. Railway electrification is another excellent candidate provided it is accompanied by firm and monitored labour productivity. In addition, the alternative policy would be to have the Government use its power as a purchaser to speed up the development of new industry. There should be a more aggressive approach to modernizing the way in which the Civil Service works. It would improve its efficiency and help build up Britain's presence in growing areas such as word processing.

The price of expansion

Taken together, these boosts to investment and cuts in the insurance surcharge would push up the level of public borrowing, probably lead to faster growth in the money supply and would tend to bring down the value of the pound if left to float. The increase in PSBR by the money better spent than in paying interest charges to the banks and dole money to skilled people. But there would be, and there would have to be, an extra inflationary tendency. It is the price that any expansionary strategy will probably have to pay in the early stages, short of an incomes freeze and a fixed rate for the pound.

This alternative policy does not stretch political credibility. Ministers would be able to argue plausibly that what they are intending to do is a natural extension of previous policies to take account of changing circumstances — and after all, it is this Government which has bailed out the country on a scale nobody would have predicted.

What the country has a right to expect is that ministers will decide soon which of the two roads discussed above they intend to follow and, having decided, to take the country into its confidence. Inactive against U-turns is not an adequate substitute for leadership and for explanation. As it assembles tomorrow the Cabinet gives the impression of marking time and of not even doing that in step.

Rail and road

From Mr C. A. Middlemitch

Sir, Whenever the railways are in trouble (when are they not in trouble?), ferrophilous arguments alleging aid dubious arguments in favour of institutionalized road transport. Your recent leader road transport. ("Rats in trouble", May 29) seems to have succumbed to popular superstition about imaginary Treasury shrouds and ghouls that gobble up defenceless rail lines while smiling benignly on our motorways.

Instead of these fancies, some facts might allay the British Rail fever. In 1971-1980, British Rail received £500m in grants in today's money. In addition they have had £180m in debt written off, and BR pension funds have been topped up by £300m of taxpayers' money. In 1980 alone, the taxpayer paid £634m in rail subsidies, and still BR lost £77m. This year BR has a financing

limit of £920m and is asking for more.

On the road side the figures look rather different, which is just as well for the taxpayer. In the same ten-year period, road users paid over £36,000m in taxes, and road expenditure was under £15,000m, making a profit of £21,000m. In the current year, the taxpayers' profit from roads will amount to over £25,000m. Of this profit, well over £100m will be contributed by road hauliers.

Unlike the railways, who can always turn to the taxpayer if the going gets rough, the road haulier has to pay his taxes out of cash flow: there is no tax at every fill-up or on vehicle licences (£1,400 or more to put a heavy lorry on the road). It is precisely these sorts of cost pressures that put an estimated 3,000 hauliers out of business last year, with the loss of 20,000 jobs

(whereas, as you rightly state, virtually no rail jobs were lost).

The fact of the matter is that road haulage is one of the most efficient industries in the country and railways among the least efficient. No-one begrudges BR the investment needed to modernize and re-equip, but the road haulier heartily resents having to pay increased taxes year by year while listening to sanctimonious nonsense about the "social" railway (part paid for by road taxes) and the "anti-social" haulage industry. Let the rail industry put its own house in order, before passing stones at passing lorries. If the rail unions were to heed your wise advice on productivity they would do themselves and the country a greater service.

Yours faithfully,
CARL A. MIDDLEMITCH,
P.O. Box 10,
The Stockyard,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Allegiances of a Councillor

From Councillor C. P. Lewcock

Sir, It seems you have left a very important figure out of your picture (leading article, June 13) of the master-servant relationship in local government. That is the elector.

I am a local government officer and now as well a County Councillor. But I was not elected by NALGO. I was elected by the people in the community where I live. They were made aware in my election literature of my profession and they chose to elect me because, presumably, they felt that I would serve their interests better than my opponents. I intend to serve them to the best of my ability.

Your suggestion to disable any local government officer from standing for election in any local authority were adopted I should be denied the opportunity to serve and local people would be denied their choice.

The answer to the problem you pose is to strengthen the ties of accountability between the elector and the member so that if he or she is not doing his job properly, the elector can effectively deal with it in the ballot box. The introduction of proportional representation, by weakening the grip of party discipline, would assist this.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS LEWCOCK,
Members' Suite,
County Hall,
Maidstone,
Kent,
June 13.

The Osirak raid

From Mr Nasim Ahmed

Sir, In your editorial on the Israeli bombing raid on Iraqi nuclear installations at Daura (June 10) you have rightly warned that the precedent has been set. "If we accept Mr Menachem Begin's thesis that Israel was justified in staging a 'pre-emptive strike' on a possible nuclear reactor, then the Arab or Islamic country is safe from unprovoked attacks of this kind. Furthermore, the dangerous 'Begin doctrine' of 'pre-emptive strikes' limited only now to rely on the international and targets in Lebanon, threatens to undermine the Western strategic and economic interests in the Middle East.

The Arab and Islamic countries identified by President Reagan's administration as the "strategic consensus" against the Soviet Union in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean: namely Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Oman and Somalia. "We do not want to hard to cooperate openly with the United States in the face of the 'Begin doctrine', the latest and most horrible demonstration of which was the time he has had to study the Israeli attack on Iraq, which has signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty and placed its nuclear installations under the inspection control of the UN International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, will only confirm the contention that it is not the Soviet Union, but aggressive Israeli militarism, which today poses the most serious threat to the Arab and Islamic states.

Yours faithfully,
NASIM AHMED
(Former Ambassador of Pakistan),
46 Kent Avenue,
Belling, W13,
June 11.

Seat-belt legislation

From Dr John Adams

Sir, Dr Mackay asserts (June 11) that my analysis of the efficacy of seat belt legislation is seriously flawed. It is curious given the parliamentarian interest in the question, the time he has had to study my analysis, and the number of times he has repeated the charge, that he has not substantiated the charge in print. In debates about seat belt legislation, complexity mere assertion is not enough.

Dr Mackay is impressed by the evidence from Australia. In the appendix to my paper I argue, with reasons and evidence, that the Australian evidence is seriously flawed. So far my reasons and evidence have not been answered.

Contrary to Dr Mackay's assertion, my analysis looks at car occupant deaths separately from other deaths in the countries for which the data are available. The results do not help his case. My analysis also takes account of changes in petrol consumption. Again the results do not help his case.

Between 1972 (the year before the energy crisis) and 1978, the period within which most laws were passed, road deaths decreased by 17 per cent. In the same period, petrol consumption fell by 17 per cent in countries without seat belt laws, and by 25 per cent in countries with seat belt laws. Dr Mackay asserts that the "seat belt effect" is buried under other uncontrolled variables. He has not explained how he has controlled variables against countries without seat belt laws, nor even said what they are.

Most of the "great number of specific studies" to which Dr Mackay refers deal with the "statistical effect of seat belts for car occupants involved in accidents." But none of them has explained why, in countries which have passed laws and in which there have been subsequent large increases in wearing rates, there has been no significant effect on the numbers killed.

Both Houses of Parliament have displayed on numerous occasions in the past great difficulty in formulating policies whose wisdom depends on a correct assessment of complex technical issues. Last Thursday's seat belt debate in the Lords followed intensive lobbying on both sides. In the debate, the view that you can prove anything with statistics had many adherents. They seemed to find it a liberating insight; it freed them from the obligation to consider any statistical evidence that was incompatible with their pre-established voting intentions.

The letters page of *The Times* cannot offer sufficient space to air the statistical debate fully. But it is an appropriate forum in which to discuss the manner in which the debate ought to be conducted.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ADAMS,
Department of Geography,
University College London,
26 Bedford Way, WC1.

Practical skills and examinations

From Mr William H. Stubbs

Sir, There has indeed been a shift between the values given to the academic and practical skills of young people. (*The Times*, June 12) This is only too evident to those whose responsibility it is to advise school leavers on job opportunities. Society in general and employers in particular place great weight on the academic achievements of school leavers, often at the expense of other personal skills and qualities. Where these are scarce it must seem unfair to young people only to be asked to show evidence of success in examinations (in the case of GCE O levels this is based on performance in a two or three-hour test) without their being able to present other testimony of their abilities to apply themselves diligently, reliably, punctually and honestly to work.

There are two developments which could help in restoring the balance:

One: the implementation of a nationally recognized common system of examining at 16-plus. The CSSE, which was a prize-winning scheme, has not achieved widespread acceptance by employers and is due to be replaced. The time being taken to construct a replacement for CSSE and O Levels is however going to be very long. Ten years elapsed between the Schools Council recommendation in 1970 for a common examination

Party credentials

From Mr Robert N. Wareing

Sir, I read with interest, and not a little incredulity, your report of a speech made by Denis Healey to delegates to the General and Municipal Workers' Union conference (June 9) in which he made a personal and ill-informed attack against myself. Perhaps you will allow me to set the record straight.

Mr Healey stated that Eric Ogden, MP for Liverpool West Derby had been "shouldered out by a polytechnic lecturer". A minor point, but I am, in fact, a lecturer at the General Liverpool College of Further Education. More serious is his complaint that an attempt is being made "to replace the natural traditional backbone of the party, the industrial working class of Britain, with white collar intellectuals and professionals 'with clean hands'". I would suggest that by comparison with Mr Healey I possess impeccable working class credentials. I was a miner, later a lorry driver, working at the Liverpool docks in hail, rain, and snow — his tough life leading to a premature death at the age of 61. Mr Healey's father was the Principal of the Liverpool College of Education, the first member of my family ever to have been employed in a non-manual job.

When I studied for my university degree it was at evening classes here in industrial Liverpool after a hard day's work and not in the rarified atmosphere of Balliol College, Oxford. Since then, I have spent much of my life endeavouring to improve the lot of working class students by preparing them for higher education. I always thought that socialists were interested in improvement.

Readers could be forgiven for imagining that I am a member of the "bed-sitter" socialist just having infiltrated from the Socialist Workers' Party or the International

Draining the Broad

From Miss Lucy Neville

Sir, I was pleased to see the coverage *The Times* (June 6) gave to the proposed drainage of nearly 6,000 acres of Broadland in Norfolk. I was dismayed, however, to read of the sort of compromise that the Broadland Authority is prepared to make.

Only a quarter of the area is saved for the wild life and flora that cannot be considered as a very satisfactory result. I think this particular case exposes many faults in the present notions of "wild conservation" means and how far one should be prepared to go to defend as yet undamaged countryside.

The greatest threat to the countryside is that of possible commercial gain. For this reason alone the farming community cannot be the custodians of the countryside. They are the business developers of the country. They do not necessarily know anything about wild flora and fauna let alone appreciate the benefits to be reaped from maintaining an ecological balance. If only one farmer behaves responsibly it clearly depends on the amount of land at his disposal that will govern the damage he can and will do.

The farmers that do protect and even develop corners of fields to benefit the wildlife cannot compensate for the vast tracts of land that are ploughed up for agriculture, though it does express the desire of some farmers to retain a balance.

Compromise in conservation usually means the farmers gaining at wildlife's expense. If conservationists are appalled by being given a token little parcel of land, which I'm afraid a few acres actually is, they cannot hope to support our landscape. In Herefordshire there are two areas of special scientific interest and if the farmers allow the authorities to have a mere quarter of the area including these sites, protests will shrink away. The rest of the area meanwhile will be drained, herbicides and pesticides

Ethics of fasting

From Canon Eric James

Sir, It could be helpful just now to compare and contrast Gandhi's public fasting with that of the Maze prisoners.

Pyarelal Nayyar, Gandhi's biographer, writing in *The Statesman* of January 3, 1967, on "The right and wrong users of fasting": "How Gandhi's standards apply today," concluded that fasting "cannot be resorted to against those who regard us as their enemy, or on whose love we have not established a claim by dint of selfless service; it cannot be resorted to by a person who has not identified himself with, or worked for the cause he is fasting for; it cannot be used for gaining a material selfish end, or to change the honestly held opinion of another or in support of an issue that is not clear, feasible and demonstrably just."

Eric Erikson, in a chapter of his study of Gandhi significantly called

'The War Game' under wraps

From Miss Gillian Peelle

Sir, Mr Nicholas Horsley's letter (June 13) will, I hope, stimulate further discussion about the BBC's decision not to show "The War Game". As a member of the General Advisory Council, I do not think it necessary to comment further on the substance of what took place at its last meeting. However I should like to make two points about the issues raised by the film itself and by the reluctance of the BBC to allow the general public to see it.

First, it seems to me that any argument for protecting the public from the distress which the film may cause has been vitiated by the fact that a very large number of people know both of the film's existence and of its contents. (Apart from widespread press descriptions, it is freely available on cinema clubs and private hire.) There is now much better propaganda for the anti-nuclear cause in the BBC's refusal to screen "The War Game" on television than there is in the water-tight containment of its contents.

Secondly, it is by no means clear that the film's depiction of what would happen in the event of a nuclear war forces one to any conclusions about how Britain could best avoid such a catastrophe. It could well be argued that the retention of independent deterrent forces and giving further consideration to civil defence would be more effective in this respect than unilateral disarmament which has been our present nostrum of "The War Game".

Additional expenditure on defence and nuclear weapons does, however, need public support. That support cannot be built when the issues of defence strategy are treated as subjects which should not be discussed in public. Parliament, after a decade in which the British Government was not debated at all, has in the last eighteen months broken the political silence in an attempt to assess the moral, economic and strategic questions raised by our nuclear posture.

The BBC's responsibility to contribute to the debate outside Parliament would be discharged more effectively by screening "The War Game" than by continuing to acquiesce in the question of whether rightly or wrongly — government-inspired censorship.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN PEELE,
Lady Margaret Hall,
Oxford,
June 13.

Benefit strike victims

From Mr James Earthrowl

Sir, Current unrest and industrial action harm many people when social security money cannot be paid promptly, although those who have some savings can manage to get by for a few days.

Not so those who have no resources at all and rely desperately on the social security paying officer. When pressures force the paying clerks to take a day's unpaid (say) early next week for a man whose need is paramount this very day, the enforced wait throws the applicant back upon voluntary services.

For instance, an ex-offender who has found a job and can produce a confirming letter from his employer will not receive his wages until the end of his first or his second week's work. He has no place to live but the landlady wants rent in advance which normally the Department of Health and Social Security will cover. Without pre-payment he has no place to go. To such a man the offer of an appointment some days ahead shows lack of understanding of his problem.

To cover the needs of such a man makes serious demands on the resources of any prison-based society. It is difficult to turn a man away when "through-care" for his rehabilitation has reached this stage. He cannot afford bus fares to get to the central office for money. Our own welcome with many a presbytery wears thin when we ask parishes to provide cash today which we may promise to return by the end of the next week. Efforts to reach the hearts of Home Office or DHSS executives result only in reference to the staff who go slow. The National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nacro) do not have limitless resources.

We ask those who have voices that will be heard in official circles to tell us how to secure that voluntary societies a refund of what is properly handed out to those men whose names are truly at the bottom of the pile.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. EARTHROWL,
Director,
Catholic Social Service for Prisoners,
495-497 King's Road, SW10,
June 10.

Book values

From Mr Alan Bevan

Sir, The recent exchange in your paper between Lord Rothschild and Kenneth Baker on investment in rare books is interesting in that the books' 1981 values are estimates of current market selling prices; that is prices at which they could be currently bought by collectors.

In assessing their performance as investments one should realistically value them in terms of their current realizable prices, that is book sellers' buying prices. This is half the current market prices, as many who have invested in stamps have found to their cost and dismay.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BEVAN,
10 Holders Hill Gardens, NW4.

Forty years on

From Commander C. F. Walker, RN

Sir, When young Miss Phillips is a little older no doubt her grandfather the Duke of Edinburgh will enjoy telling her how he assisted in the sinking of her namesake, the Italian cruiser Zara, at the battle of Matapan, for which he was mentioned in despatches.

Yours faithfully,
C. F. WALKER,
Pantons,
Dallington,
Hastfield,
Sussex,
June 12.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Flight from the dollar

It has taken several sets of better-than-expected United States money supply figures to persuade international markets that the dollar has seen its peak. But yesterday, foreign exchange dealers round the world finally seemed intent on getting out of the United States currency. The expectation, of course, is that dollar interest rates are now on their way down and will continue to move that way over the rest of the summer. Just how justifiable a hope that will prove remains to be seen: the Federal Reserve is presumably keen to avoid yet another round of rapidly falling rates followed by an equally rapid resurgence a few months hence.

In London, the fall in United States rates and the sharp recovery in sterling made it a much brighter day in the gilt-edged market. Gains at the longer end of the market stretched to £19. However, there are still a number of major question-marks as to where gilts can go from here. Signs that the Government may be on the verge of winning its current pay battle with the civil servants is undoubtedly bullish for sentiment. It would be doubly so if the market could feel that such a victory would act as reinforcement for the Thatcherites in the Cabinet when it comes to discussion on where Government economic policy goes from here.

Shorter term, an ending of the civil servants' dispute would lead straight into the problem of funding and money market management over the rest of the summer as outstanding tax payments were cleared. Would tightness in money markets and short-term interest rates hold back a gilt-edged market recovery? Would the Government want to fund heavily given the size of the tax to be recovered? It will be interesting to see how the authorities choose to play their hand and it is worth noting, incidentally, that the 2 per cent index-linked stock is rapidly moving back towards par — the achievement of which would make it that much easier to try a second issue.

jumbo issue there are enough large companies reporting over the next few weeks to make a fairly steady flow of rights issues fairly certain, which is likely to keep the market in its present fragile condition.

● The French bourse seems to be coming to terms with the prospect of a firmly socialist administration with share prices showing little reaction to the socialists' sweeping victory in the elections in marked contrast to the near panic sell-off only a month ago when Mitterrand won the Presidency.

Politically, the poor showing of the Communists has been generally interpreted as a bull point, but the concern all along has been that the socialists will command a Parliamentary majority to give them the free hand in pushing through their widespread nationalization proposals and that they have now secured. But some members of the new administration have been intent to play down the nationalization threat. In the meantime, after two strong years the stock market will have to come to terms with a weak currency and the inflationary consequences both of this and the socialists' economic policy. The outlook for corporate profits also looks unpromising — the huge Saint-Gobain industrial group was warning yesterday of a fall in 1981 earnings — but much depends on the socialists' line on wage demands.

Godfrey Davis Cash to Diversify

Godfrey Davis, helped mainly by its four Ford dealerships, has emerged from one of the duller years for motor distributors with only a small dent to profits. Heavy destocking early last spring put Davis in good stead to beat much of price cutting on falling volumes and pressure on margins ahead of many competitors. So pre-tax profits, the first since the reorganization after the sale of its car rental business to Europcar, came out 17 per cent lower at £2.57m, out of which the Ford dealerships, leasing and contract hire business contributed £2m compared with £2.38m on sales £2m down at £76m.

Much the most interesting aspect of the group is the £22m deal with Europcar, a subsidiary of Renault. Although Davis is still well pleased with the sale it has left the



Mr Cecil Redfern, chairman of Godfrey Davis.

group with one-off losses for the year. There are extraordinary costs at £2.4m to cover a provision for reorganization expenses of £1.7m and deferred taxation of £1.6m, less advance corporation tax recoverable of £954,000 arising from the sale, which leave a net loss of £186,000.

At 74½p, the shares yield 6.7 per cent and are backed by net assets closer to 130p a share and at least maintained profits in the current year. But Davis's entrepreneurial skills will be tested by the way it uses the £5m cash it raised from the Europcar deal (the rest was distributed to shareholders) and at the moment it is only talking vaguely about acquisitions — up to £15m — outside the motor industry.

Peter Norman on the latest report from the Bank for International Settlements

Thumbs down for the monetarists

Basle. Monetarism has become a dirty word for the people who monitor international monetary policy. The Bank for International Settlements yesterday told western governments that they have been wrong to rely mainly on monetary policy to combat inflation.

In its annual report the BIS said that monetary action should be accompanied by a reduction in public sector deficits, the creation of more flexible markets and, if possible, an income policy based on consensus rather than constraint.

The bank is a conservative institution based in the quiet and stolid Swiss city of Basel. As the central bankers' bank, it has traditionally been thought of as an institution which is likely to adopt a monetarist approach to economic affairs. But over the last two years it has become increasingly disenchanted with monetarism.

The BIS is now on the side of the economic "wets", largely because of its observations of monetary policy as applied in the United States and Britain. In its latest annual report the bank has avoided directly criticizing the policies of the British Government. It prefers to let the facts speak for themselves.

There is none of the light-hearted flippancy of last year, when the BIS said that Mrs Thatcher's policies were giving bureaucrats and economists a chance to observe an experiment akin to those always available to natural scientists.

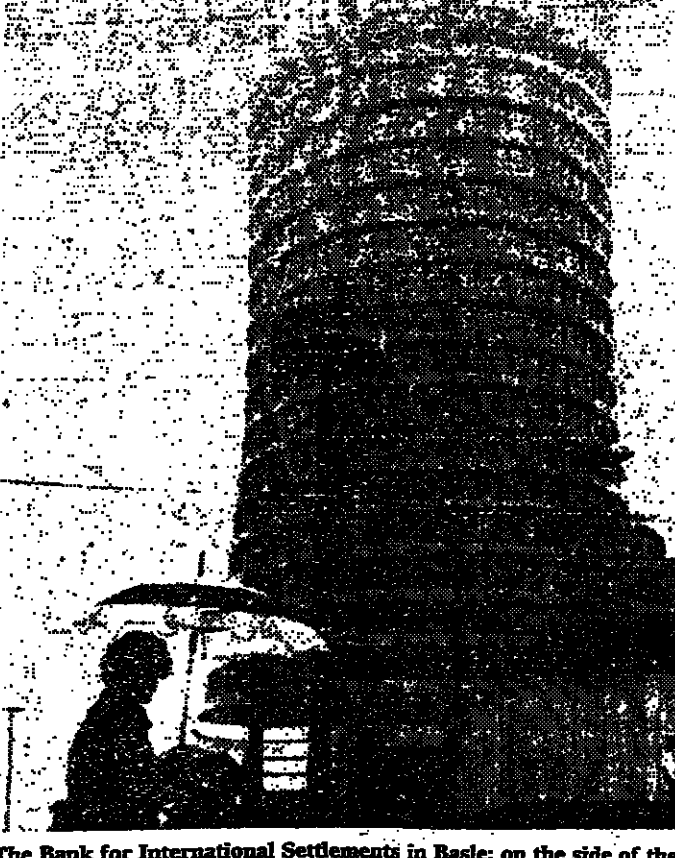
Instead, there is a gloomy chronicle of bad news: recession started earlier in Britain than anywhere else;

unemployment has risen to more than 10 per cent of the working population; and the country has experienced its sharpest economic setback since the Second World War.

Even more significant is the BIS's concern over United States policies. The adoption of new monetary techniques — which the United States attempts to control the growth of money stock by regulating the volume of reserves available to the banking system — has created an era of "placid" interest rates. In the bank's view the sudden ups and downs of American interest rates are upsetting the United States domestic economy and also causing major international monetary disturbances.

But, while the central bankers' bank is free to express its concern in a diplomatic manner, this does nothing to diminish the problems faced by central banks. Presidents in Europe. Over the past weekend central bank governors from the developing countries, the eastern block and the industrialized world converged on Basel.

Although it was largely a social event, the EEC central bank governors took the opportunity of lobbying their American colleagues to try to achieve moderation in American monetary policy.



The Bank for International Settlements in Basel: on the side of the economic "wets".

Many European central bankers believe that America is exporting unemployment to the rest of the industrialized world by pursuing a monetary policy which establishes unnaturally high interest rates in many European countries.

Sadly, there is no coherent European response. The central banks and treasuries which are supposed to be working together to adopt a tough counter-inflation policy, are now in no position to complain because the Federal Reserve

has decided that monetary-based techniques are the best way of approaching this end.

While this latest annual report of the BIS is as lucid and literate as ever, its message is likely to fall on deaf ears: it is clearly important to stress, as the bank has done, that a policy which presses down aggregate demand in response to repeated increases in the price of oil and rising wages will create many risks in the political, social and economic spheres.

The BIS could take Britain as an example when it says there are great risks of creating "high unemployment and low rates of industrial utilization which reduce current levels of activity and ultimately undermine profitability and the incentive to invest".

The bank is doing policy-makers a service in saying that monetary policies are not enough and in advocating fair markets. It is important that the bank should also remind the world that more investment capital is needed to create jobs and that public sector deficits must be lowered if there is to be a crowding-out of borrowers at capital markets.

The central bankers' bank has sent an important signal to all central banks. It has said that it is sceptical about the monetary base experiment in America and it calls for a better coordination of policies to solve their economic problems at the expense of their trading partners.

But what is ultimately distressing is that the bank can only suggest policy alternatives such as incomes control — which have failed in the past and which cannot succeed unless there is a radical change in individual attitudes.

Pearce Wright

How reliable is the nuclear arithmetic?

A local authority in Suffolk is holding a referendum to discover the attitude of its residents to plans for a second nuclear power station in the district. This unprecedented move by a local authority will test opinion on the Central Electricity Generating Board's controversial proposals to build the first of a series of 1,150 megawatt American-designed reactors, the advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs), which will be designated Sizewell B.

A tight timetable has been set because of the CEGB's intention to start building the £1,250m station early in 1982. But there are several formidable difficulties in meeting that target.

The main hurdle comes next year with the public inquiry promised by the Government. It seems of little doubt that the inquiry will be a broader version of the tribunal which examined the scheme to expand the waste nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at British Nuclear Fuels at Windscale in Cumbria.

There are other obstacles to be cleared. The safety of the PWR has to be agreed with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate before a licence is issued to operate a station. An enormous dossier of information on the safety case for the CEGB was delivered in April, about three months behind schedule.

Essential safety information covering the design and construction methods and materials is also needed from the main contractor, the National Nuclear Corporation. That dossier has been promised by the end of the year and the Inspectorate has to complete its analysis by May next year, the

target date set for the public release of the safety study.

Whereas anti-nuclear objectors are totally opposed to the project on any terms, there are conflicts within the industry which also amount to serious stumbling blocks. There are fundamental differences of opinion about the choice of the PWR over the British-designed second generation nuclear system, the advanced gas-cooled reactor, AGR.

Seven AGR nuclear power stations are operating or under construction in the United Kingdom — Hinkley Point B, Hartlepool, Heysham B, Sizewell A, Trawford, and Torness, each with two AGR reactors of 660 megawatts. The price of the first AGR station ordered in 1965 was £50m. The combined cost of the seven stations for which contracts were finally placed two months ago is £2,500m.

Separate issues are raised by the delay in placing contracts and by the huge escalation in the costs of building nuclear stations. Chief among them is the "knock" of £200m a few heads together and ensure the PWR programme presses ahead," is being discussed.

In an industry with such a legacy of backbiting, there is obviously difficulty in finding someone acceptable to all sides. The person most strongly tipped for the job is Dr Walter Marshall, chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority, who has also made a special study of the safety of PWR-type reactors.

The advantage claimed for the American PWR-type of reactor is that it is cheaper to build, but there are several reasons why this argument is open to doubt.

In the absence of experience in building and operating PWRs in the United Kingdom much of the evidence about costs, reliability and safety comes from the United States. An examination of these factors is published in a new American study, *Power Plant Cost Escalation*, which looks at the changing capital costs of building nuclear and coal-fired stations and the relative impact on prices of nuclear safety and environmental regulations.

Rooney of BICC as the new chairman. But only last month Mr Rooney was effectively squeezed out in a manoeuvre which reflects the continuing internecine struggle between AGR and PWR factions.

The rumour has reached a stage where over the past few days it has been made clear in Whitehall that Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister and Mr Howell see it as a threat to their long-term strategy for the construction of 10 PWR stations — one a year — between 1983 and 1993. The appointment of a sort of moderator, to "knock a few heads together and ensure the PWR programme presses ahead," is being discussed.

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It shows that the average capital costs of nuclear plants completed in the 1970s went up from \$366 per kilowatt of capacity in 1971 to \$587 in 1978, measured in constant 1979 dollars, this represents a rise of 142 per cent greater than the general level of inflation in the United States.

Reactor capital costs were higher mainly because of increased equipment and labour costs, while construction was disrupted through repeated modifications intended to correct design defects and improve safety standards.

Though the reactors under construction in Britain have been different, exactly the same circumstances have surrounded the construction costs in the United Kingdom.

Average capital costs for coal-fired plants rose meanwhile from \$346 a kilowatt to \$583 for the same period, according to the study. This was an increase, again, 66 per cent greater than general inflation. Virtually all the increased spending on coal plants went on pollution control equipment to clean the gases before they are emitted into the air.

The lesson which Mr Charles Komanoff, a former member of the New York City Environmental Protection Administration, draws from his study is that efforts to reduce safety problems will lead to a continued escalation of nuclear costs. Dealing with the environmental problems of coal stations will also increase costs, but at a much lower rate.

The technical reason is that safety systems in nuclear plants are complex matters not confined to a few systems, such as gas cleaners in coal plant. Examples of this are already

apparent in the modifications made to nuclear plant after the accident at Three Mile Island and in the adaptation of the American-style PWR to the safety philosophy in Britain.

For instance, Sizewell B is expected to have four, instead of two, independent emergency cooling systems to quench the core of the reactor, should the safety philosophy in Britain occur. An additional wall will also be introduced to provide an extra containment area.

Items of this nature add greatly to cost, though the exact amount is still uncertain. In evidence to the Commons select committee on energy last year the CEGB estimated a cost 34 per cent above the prevailing level in the United States; but more recent calculations apparently now indicate that this could be 50 per cent.

There are comparable alterations to nuclear plant in the United States. For example, it considers will make nuclear plant 75 per cent more costly to build than coal plants before the end of the 1980s. In his estimates, electricity from new reactors will cost at least 25 per cent more than from coal, even assuming fairly low costs for uranium, disposal of radioactive wastes and "decommissioning".

In that calculation coal prices are assumed to rise at 2.5 per cent a year faster than inflation over the next 40 years to pay for safety, health and damage from mining.

*Power Plant Cost Escalation: nuclear and coal capital costs, regulations and economics by Charles Komanoff, published by Energy Associates, 333 West End Avenue, New York, NY 10023, \$295.

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	1980-81 (£'000)	1979-80 (£'000)
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OUR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, IT SEEMS, WRITES MUSIC IN HIS SPARE TIME...

I would imagine he'd be very good at writing unfinished symphonies...

Former professional soldier Roy Ward might be considered a glut for punishment. He abandoned a promising Army career last year to represent Britain's declining carpet industry and this month becomes director general of the Machine Tool Trades Association.

Ward, who is 45, does not see himself, however, fighting a rearguard action to save the beleaguered machine tool industry. The sector is not declining, he said yesterday, but has adapted to changing technological and marketing needs.

He believes that the industry can, with its present workforce of about 45,000, achieve a 20 per cent increase in output when the recession lifts and at least maintain its position as the world's sixth largest producer of machine tools and the eighth largest exporter.

Ward replaces Howard Barrett at the MTTA on Barrett's retirement.

He sees no conflict in being the chief full-time representative of an industry which includes both domestic manufacturers and importers in its ranks. "I think of the members as today's men, getting on with making and selling machine tools and, hopefully, making money."

"The association's officials are tomorrow's men, looking for new opportunities for the industry and representing the industry's view to government."

During 25 years as a regular soldier Ward served with the Royal Corps of Signals eventually rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Frank Howe, the head of commercial relations at the English Tourist Board, is promoting an idea that could one day make life easier and less expensive for travellers.

He is trying to encourage the development in this country of the two-star type of hotel that is catching on in France and The Netherlands. The ETB recently took 15 British hoteliers and caterers to France where they saw hotels in the Ibis group which offer small comfortable rooms with private bathrooms for about £15 a night, including tax and service.

British hotels are usually three-star or higher, Howe says, and are always trying to move up a grade, even though there is a shortage of good two-star accommodation.

Ibis, which has 54 hotels in France and The Netherlands, plans to open 12 more in the next 18 months, including one at Heathrow which might be the first of its kind in Britain.

And if British hoteliers are

getting French lessons, Japan Airlines is giving Japanese companies lessons in English. It is running training courses based on its hostesses' knowledge of handling overseas customers, including the "use of English conversation" and "how to read a customer's mind".

If the hostesses on my last JAL flight could have read my mind, they would have had me locked up in the baggage hold for the rest of trip.

The Burgerworld chain is to open a prototype restaurant in Sarnia, near Windsor, Ontario, where customers will be served by robots.

"Customers will sit at horse-shoe-shaped counters and give their orders directly to the cook on the butcher system. When the order is ready, the cook will program each robot to serve the food. A robot can carry four trays at a time and service nine customers in 72 seconds," Burgerworld explained.

Each robot — there will be three of them at £10,000 each — has interchangeable heads with different flashing lights and personalities so that "customers will not be bored with the same robots all the time".

The developer of the robots, Wayne Obie, said predictably: "They cost less than waitresses, don't go sick, don't ask for raises, don't take coffee breaks and a nice job."

The Hittigious makers of Champagne are championing the legal bit again. Many in Britain will recall the lengthy court actions which the Comité Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne (CIVC) pursued against Spanish competitors and against so-called "champagne perry" in the British market.

Now the comité is preparing writs against its own countrymen in its eternal struggle to defend the good name which it claims belongs exclusively to the vines of its region.

Its complaint is that a new brand of cigarette has just been launched in France, called, of course, Champagne.

Joseph Dargant, the CIVC's information officer, whose office in Epernay is decorated with the words "no problems" ranging from outright frauds to such curiosities as "champagne honey", "champagne soap" and "champagne kola", promises that his organization will go to court unless the cigarette is withdrawn.

The CIVC is a determined opponent. It has been pursuing court actions in Canada against American "champagnes" since 1964 and more hearings are due shortly.

Dargant's imminent retirement promises no repose for those who wish to help themselves to a share of champagne's prestige. His successor, André Enders has been crucified from the law firm which handled the comité's actions against Shoveries and Bulters in Britain, among others.

Ross Davies

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Gilts lead the way

3 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Law Report June 15 1981 Divisional Court

Control of funds must be exclusive

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal ex parte Chiew
Before Mr Justice Ralph Gibson
[Judgment delivered June 12]

In establishing a claim to be a person of independent means for the purpose of the Immigration Rules the applicant must prove that he has a right to the supply of sufficient funds, legally enforceable against any person. It is not sufficient for him to prove the existence of family funds from which he may draw but which are under the ultimate control of the head of the family.

Paragraph 29 of Statement of Immigration Rules for Control of Entry, Commonwealth Citizens (R.C. 80) provides: "Where a visitor applies for permission to settle here as a person of independent means evidence is to be sought that he has means under his own control and disposable in this country sufficient to support himself and his dependants for the foreseeable future without working. If the evidence is satisfactory, the applicant may be granted an extension of stay, not exceeding 12 months initially."

The Divisional Court dismissed an application by Mr. Chiew for an order of certiorari to quash a determination of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal. The tribunal had allowed an appeal

by the Home Secretary from the determination of an adjudicator allowing Mr. Chiew's appeal from the Secretary of State's decision not to extend his leave to remain in the United Kingdom as a person of independent means.

Mr. Chiew, a Chinese national, was born in 1943, and the eldest son of a very rich father. His father had 16 children, and Mr. Chiew was the eldest son of the first wife. He had a position of precedence and authority. He had visited this country many times and for substantial periods.

His Lordship said that Mr. Chiew was a citizen of Malaysia, born in 1943, and the eldest son of a very rich father. His father had 16 children, and Mr. Chiew was the eldest son of the first wife. He had a position of precedence and authority. He had visited this country many times and for substantial periods.

Parental rights of appeal

In re W (a minor)
Lord Justice Ormrod said in the Court of Appeal (sitting with Lord Justice Dunn and Mr. Justice Waterhouse) that Parliament should not be taken to have intended to confer on the parent of a child who is a ward of court the right to appeal against decisions of local authorities made under care orders.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the whole trouble started from the fact that the Children and Young Persons Act, 1969, was designed to deal with two

completely different situations — namely, children who were neglected or ill-treated in various ways by parents, and those who were delinquent.

The framework of the Act was mainly directed to the delinquent child, because it spoke of a child having a right of appeal, and the Act generally was based on the view that it was the child, as it were, in the dock against the local authority, whereas in neglect or ill-treatment cases it was the parents who were in the dock. The result of that was that the

frequent visits here. When he entered the country in June 1978 he was given leave to enter for six months as a visitor. Because of the frequency of his visits he decided to apply for a more permanent form of stay, and brought his application on the ground that he was a person of independent means.

The Home Secretary's decision to refuse leave to remain in the United Kingdom was expressed in the following way: "The Secretary of State is not satisfied that you have funds, under your own control, sufficient to support yourself, and any dependants, for an indefinite period."

There was not and never had been any question as to the sufficiency of Mr. Chiew's funds. There was a very large amount of money available: the question was whether it was under his control.

All the very considerable family wealth was under the control of Mr. Chiew's father as head of the family, as was usual in a Chinese family. On his father's death Mr. Chiew would inherit a substantial fortune, but while the father was alive all this wealth would remain vested in him.

Mr. Chiew had never received any regular salary, but his father had made funds available to him whenever he needed or asked for them. Since Mr. Chiew had been in the United Kingdom funds had been transferred to him from sources under the ultimate control of his father but made available for his father to call upon. Mr. Chiew stated that although his father had power to prevent him from drawing on the family funds he did not anticipate any circumstances in which his father might do so.

The adjudicator had ruled in favour of Mr. Chiew on the basis that the measure of control which he was able to exercise over the family assets was sufficient to bring his case within the terms of paragraph 29, and on the basis that the words "under his own control" were not meant to imply that control had to be to the exclusion of everyone and everything else, but imported a requirement that there was an ability to call upon funds which were sufficient for the purpose of that paragraph.

The Secretary of State's appeal to the Divisional Court was submitted on behalf of Mr. Chiew that while the phrase "means under his own control" must be construed in the light of the rule as a whole, nevertheless all that was required was control and not ownership, and it need not be proved to be exclusive.

It was submitted that sufficient control by Mr. Chiew had been proved although control could be cut off by some other person, namely his father. It was unlikely that such control by his father would ever be exercised.

It was also submitted that in calling on these funds Mr. Chiew was not asking for money which belonged to someone else, but was exercising his own beneficial interest in the funds. On behalf of the Secretary of State it was submitted that the words "under his own control" were to be taken to mean legal and enforceable rights, and although Mr. Chiew had been shown to enjoy, and to have a probability of continuing to enjoy large sums of money he had failed to show control.

In his Lordship's judgment the rule was concerned with the presence of the required supply of funds, not with the probability of continued supply, but with the supply of funds which he was able to call upon. That meant rights enforceable in law against any person who might interfere with them. The control which Mr. Chiew had claimed to have over the funds was not control at all. The tribunal had therefore not erred in law, and the application would be dismissed.

The decision in July was a decision of the majority. It remained a valid decision because even if the chairman had remained alive and altered his decision that of the other members would prevail. Although it was unusual to describe a decision of a court of law as a decision of the majority, it was a decision of the majority who heard the appeal.

No decision until it is delivered

Regina v Greater Manchester Valuation Panel ex parte Shell Chemical UK Ltd.

When the members of a valuation panel reached a decision but one of them died before the decision was announced, then the decision was that of the majority and not that of the full court, Mr. Justice Giddens said sitting as a Divisional Court.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the panel had reserved judgment in February 1980 and the chairman had died before their unanimous decision was given in July. The chairman's decision was not effective until communicated to the parties because until it was announced he had the opportunity to alter his decision.

The decision in July was a decision of the majority. It remained a valid decision because even if the chairman had remained alive and altered his decision that of the other members would prevail. Although it was unusual to describe a decision of a court of law as a decision of the majority, it was a decision of the majority who heard the appeal.

Dispute over dog led to gun siege

From Our Correspondent Winchester

A lorry driver ordered a police sergeant during a two-and-a-half-hour siege, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr. Michael Selfe, for the prosecution said John Rose, aged 33, "holed up" in his suburban semi-detached house last October armed with a loaded single-barrel shotgun, after a dispute over and unwanted dog.

Mr. Rose admits falsely imprisoning sergeant Peter Harris, aged 33, threatening to kill him and Chief Inspector David Higgins, and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life.

Mr. Selfe said that police were called to Mr. Rose's house in Cloughs Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, but he kept them at bay from a top window.

Police took cover and tried to persuade Mr. Rose to give himself up. Sergeant Harris, who was unarmed, told him to put the gun down. Rose refused, saying: "You want to be a hero?"

Mr. Rose attempted to escape in his car but turned back when he saw a police roadblock. Then he crept into a neighbouring house where his wife was with Sergeant Harris, he pointed a gun at the sergeant's head and told him to get back to his house as a hostage, Mr. Selfe said.

Three years for male 'courtesan'

A male prostitute, Vicki de Lambury, was sent to prison for three years yesterday after admitting cheating friends and stealing nearly £2,000.

Judge Cooke, at Inner London Crown Court, ordered Mr. Timothy King, for the defence, not to read in court names mentioned in a statement made by Mr. de Lambury. "I am warning the two names mentioned and they are persons who are now dead. The fact they are deceased makes it even more objectionable," Judge Cooke said.

His offences included obtaining car hire from Harrods and expensive meals in restaurants and clubs by deception. Among the offences taken into consideration were the theft of a £5,000 mink coat and a Piaget watch.

Mr. de Lambury told the court that he had decided to plead guilty to 13 offences. "I am sure that there would be no need to name his benefactors."

"Among many of those people with whom I became close friends were extremely well-known people, and by pleading guilty I am not naming them," he said.

Mr. King said Mr. de Lambury looks on himself as a courtesan, a rich person's plaything. "He has provided services of a sexual character for many in the past and in precisely that sort of sphere."

"There was a man who was plainly moving on circles where a rich person's plaything, and tastes of a very extravagant kind were being accommodated."

Sentencing him to three years on each offence to run concurrently, Judge Cooke said: "It is said you had champagne tastes but only a beer income or none at all. And a great number of people and companies are poorer for your cheque frauds and deceptions."

Boy's adoption delayed

In re B (a minor)

Wardship proceedings relating to a small boy in the care of the local authority under section 1 of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1969, were allowed to continue for the time being by Sir John Arnold, President of the Family Division, because a decision about his future has been taken on the child's best interests for him to be adopted and parental access stopped. That decision had been taken after receiving a letter written by a psychiatrist.

The court was entitled to investigate the action of the authority to see if it had taken into account matters that ought not to be taken into account or disregarded matters that should have been taken into account. The court which Mr. Chiew had claimed to have over the funds was not control at all. The tribunal had therefore not erred in law, and the application would be dismissed.

into account matters that ought not to be taken into account or disregarded matters that should have been taken into account. The court which Mr. Chiew had claimed to have over the funds was not control at all. The tribunal had therefore not erred in law, and the application would be dismissed.

HIS LORDSHIP said that in January 1981 the local authority had decided that it was in the child's best interests for him to be adopted and parental access stopped. That decision had been taken after receiving a letter written by a psychiatrist. The doctor pointed out that

his contact with the boy and his parents was rather short in that he had formed his opinion after an interview lasting one hour. He went on to say that he was "willing to have further family interviews with the boy and his parents."

The parents were never told that if there were further interviews the decision taken in January might be reversed. The wardship would continue for the time being and the court would direct that the parents be given opportunities to see the psychiatrist again.

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Children's cardiac unit may be doomed

By Nicholas Timmins

Photograph by Malcolm Clarke

Kate O'Mara, who is playing Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park.

Mr. Smart said that those at the meeting were concerned about looking after the people who elect them.

"We are not profligate. We look for efficiency in local government and value for money." If central government looked after its finances as well as local government had, the country would be in a far better position now, he said.

If local government has received some comfort from the Government in the form of modification of a circular to be sent to all authorities. A paragraph threatening an extra audit where the allowance for inflation is higher than average has been omitted, and it is unclear longer that threats that an authority failing to resubmit its budget will have its grant withheld. It will be estimated instead.

Earlier in the day, the association's leaders met Mr Heseltine, who promised to provide more resources for inner city areas. The meeting had been arranged in the wake of the Brixton riots, and Mr Heseltine, while agreeing that they had a case, argued that the money must be found from existing resources.

Mr Smart commented that they were looking for hard cash, not more fine words.

"There is no doubt in our minds that social tensions in inner city areas are worsened, if not created, by the deteriorating conditions there," he said. "The serious problems facing nearly all the nation's cities and towns with aging inner areas are a direct result of the Government's financial policies."

The 56m cardiac wing at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children in London, which has never been fully occupied since its completion last June, may have to be demolished because of structural faults.

Structural engineers are still completing a survey of the defects in the 50-bed neuro-stroke unit, the children's most advanced paediatric unit, which was evacuated last Friday when they told hospital management that they could not guarantee the safety of the building.

Of the three patients were in the unit's investigation suite at the ground floor, the only part of the building so far brought into use, but 19 more patients were moved from a ward adjoining the wing as a precaution.

The engineers' full report is not expected until next month and yesterday Mr Edward Heywood, deputy house governor, said the extent of the defects had not been established. It was planned to demolish the building, would have been demolished rather than repaired — "a possibility, no more than that".

The hospital is consulting its solicitors, and a flurry of writs issued likely once the extent of the defects has been established.

The first sign of trouble came last July, shortly after completion, when an exterior walkway designed to provide access for the car maintenance collapsed and fell to the ground from the first floor.

Faults were found in similar beams that run round each floor of the nine-storey unit, and a sixth floor link between the wing and the main hospital building.

Health was pronounced unsafe.

Monetarists to prevail in Cabinet

bearing 25p worth of stamps although it only needed a first class stamp of 14p.

"I was suspicious as the package was heavier than usual. 'I always pay special attention to letters addressed to MPs and royalty. The back of this one was heavily gummed, this just licked and stamped down'."

Police do not believe the bomb is the work of Irish terrorists and they are viewing it more as a one-off item. This year the English Republican Army (IRA) has been active in an organization sympathetic to the IRA, has claimed responsibility for letter bombs that have been sent to five MPs including the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret

Prime Minister due for talks in Downing Street at noon, the meeting is due to last about two-and-a-quarter hours. That will give each Cabinet minister, assuming that each wishes to contribute, some six or seven minutes.

Veterans of Mr. Heath's Cabinet recall economic debates in which every member could join, being held twice a year between 1970 and 1974. They voice astonishment at Mrs Thatcher's failure, before now, to seek support from powerful ministers who do not sit on the Cabinet's main economic committee; and they believe

strengthen than weaken her position by consulting more widely.

Mr Norman St John Stevas, who was dismissed from the Cabinet at the beginning of the year, said last night that he doubted whether there was further scope for cuts in central government spending.

Speaking on Granada Television's *World in Action* he said: "My fear is that if you have the cuts you will in fact have higher unemployment, and therefore higher spending on unemployment benefits, and that will lead to yet more cuts. Enough is enough."

Sporting fixtures

Cricket: County championship starts on 5.50 or 6 p.m.; Derbyshire at Essex at Derby; Kent vs Sussex at Tunbridge Wells; Leicestershire vs Glamorgan at Leicester; Somerset vs Gloucestershire at Taunton; Worcestershire vs Hampshire at Worcester; Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire at Bradford. Other matches: Combined Universities v Sri Lanka at Oxford.

Racing: Royal Ascot.

Tennis: Tournaments at Bristol and Eastbourne.

Yachting: Transatlantic race; board-sailing world championships at the end of May.

Equestrian: Three Counties Show at Malvern.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars **FRONT'S Warm** Cold Occluded
Dewback are on boundaries where

Luncheon music:
Guthalgh School of Music
Chamber Choir, St Giles' Cripplegate, 1 pm.

Helen Watt, piano, with music by
Marc Schumann, Mussorgsky,
St Martin-in-the-Fields, 1.05 pm.

Band concerts: St Paul's
Cathedral 12 pm; St James's
Park 2 pm and 5.30 pm
Regent's Park, 12.30 pm and 5.30
pm.

Memorial service
Prince Andrew Alexandrovitch
of Russia, Russian Cathedral,
Emperor's Gate, 11.30.

Top TV ratings

Week ending 7th June, 1981

	Individe viewers millions
1 Hart to Hart (ITV)	16.35
2 Corporation Street (June 3) (Granada)	14.80
3 Shillingbury Tales (ITV)	14.40
4 Corporation Street (June 1) (Granada)	13.90
5 The Professionals (LWT)	13.70
6 World Cup Football	13.55
7 Crossroads (June 2)	13.25

Algebraic Ind. 7.00 **7.20**
Algebraic Ind. 7.00 **7.20**
 Rates given an applied percentage by
 the bank. The bank's discount rate and
 different rates applied to travelers'
 cheques and other foreign currency
 business.
London: FT index closed 12
 up 57.94.
New York: The Dow Jones in-
ustrial average closed 5.71 points
 up, to 1,011.99.

Auctions today

Sotheby's Bond St: Modern
 and antique firearms, edged
 weapons and militaria 10.30; Eng-
 lish and foreign decorative and
 furniture 11.00; important collection
 of medical books 10.30; Christie's,
 North St: Auction of East of India
 and wines for everyday drinking
 11.00; Old and modern jewellery 2;
 motor art and literature;
 11.00; Old and modern jewellery
 2; Sotheby's: Modern St
 Selected silver 11.

First nights

On the Mitterrand party's triumph in the Daily Express leader finds it reassuring that the communists "have received a drubbing," and that France's "left wing" and "united front" left-wingers, are not nuclear disarmament fanatics. On home affairs, the paper argues that it is "unwise to stand firm on its strategy to curb State spending, while the Northern Echo condemns the Government's support of Labour Women for backing a resolution...deporting the Soviet Socialist Republics and slogans, like 'the bitch'."

With Wimbledon fortnight, starting next Monday, the Daily Mirror writes that "if the football of recent past is repeated, the green lawns will echo again with blue language, and five-set matches will be played out in a series of foul words." It suggests that tennis officials should demand the powers of the FA to "beak" players with a caution, then a sending-off.

Priority attention to the closed shop issue is called for by the Mirror, which says that "the law which blames the 'trudism' of Mr James Prior, the minister responsible for the closed shop, is a

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

10	ABE's (Yorkshire)	12.29
11	Nine O'Clock News	11.00
12	June 31 (BBC)	11.00
13	Butterflies (BBC)	11.42
14	Top Of The Pops (BBC)	11.40
14	Tales Of The Unknown	11.40
16	Janet's Life	11.30
15	Nine O'Clock News	11.10
16	June 4th (BBC)	11.10
16	When A Man's Life	11.10
17	Yorkshire's Life	10.95
17	Young At Heart (ATV)	10.90
17	That's Life (BBC)	10.90
18	Sweeney (Thames)	10.85
20	Winner Takes All (Yorkshire)	10.80
		NCTAR

Roads

London and the South-east—Apex Corner, Mill Hill, (A1-A41), is being resurfaced and road width is reduced.

Midlands: M6—Two-way traffic flow on same carriageway between junctions 9 (Wednesbury) and 11 (Wolverhampton). Junction 10 (Wesall) closed. Southbound entry to exit at junction 9 closed. Southbound entry to junction 11 closed between 7 and 9.30 am.

Wales and the West: A435: Cheltenham to Cirencester, short diversion leaving Cheltenham. M4: Work between junctions 18 (Bath) and 20 (M5 intersection) and between junctions 22 (Chepsworth) and 25 (Newport). Lane closures at various points.

Bromley, Kent, Wednesday, 7.45; One Woman Plays, Cottesloe Theatre, Thursday, 7.30; The Shoemakers' Holiday, Oliver Theatre, Friday, 7.15. CINEMAS: The Last Metro, Curzon Cinema, Thursday, 7.15; The Platoon, The Albany, Camden Plaza, Camden Town, Thursday.

Last chance to see . . .

THEATRES: The Accoragion Donor, Theatre, Earlham Street, Covent Garden, ends tonight; Hamlet, Theatre Royal, Stratford E, ends on Saturday. CINEMAS: Rough Treatment, Camden Picture House, Camden Town, and Atlantic City, Curzon Cinema, end on Wednesday. **EXHIBITION:** Irving Penn photographs, Marlborough Gallery, 6 Albemarle Street, ends on Friday.

Air

Most of the air traffic controllers in Italy are expected to strike today. Allitalia said all international flights would be cancelled.

Today's anniversary

London Workers Men's Association, Foreword, Communist Party, founded, 1836.

Commenting on the Irish general election, Frankfurt Allgemeine says the result will make an agreement with London over Northern Ireland even more complicated. **Süddeutsche Zeitung** says the first "election" of East Berlin deputies to East Germany's People's Chamber as another stage in the well-planned erosion of Berlin's status as a free state.

In an editorial on nuclear risks the Washington Post gives warning that a number of countries were developing peaceful nuclear reactors, and that the state could enable them eventually to produce atomic weapons.

Parliament today

Commons: (2.30): Contempt of Court Bill, remaining stages. **Motions on government of Scotland:** Bill on the Scottish Bill, Irons and Steel Bill, and Disabled Persons (No 2) Bill, committee stages.

Times-wide

Noon in London: is 7 am in New York, 6 am in San Francisco; 3 pm in Tokyo; 9 pm in Canberra; 1 pm in Johannesburg; 3 pm in United Arab Emirates; 11 pm in Kenya; noon in Algiers; 2 pm in Moscow; 7 pm in Hongkong.

Satellite predictions

are the time of visibility, where maximum elevation, and direction of Asteroid declines entering or leaving

DON : Sunat (June 17) 0.18-0.27;
SONW; SW.

HUSTE: Sunat 956R 23.34-23.38;
NW; NW. Sunat (June 17) 0.17-0.27;
0 HW; SW.

The information supplied by Earth Satellite
University of Astoria.

Yesterday

rained at midday yesterday: a, cloud,
r, rain; h, fog.

C	F	C	F
a	15.78	G	14.57
b	17.63	I	13.95
c	16.85	J	13.50
d	18.21	K	13.20
e	16.61	L	11.70
f	15.25	M	16.61
g	13.55	N	14.57

London

met 7 am to 7 pm, 22C (72F);
met 7 am to 7 pm, 16C (61F). Humidity:
23 per cent. Rain: 24mm to 7 mm.
Wind: 10 mph to 6 mph. Kar.
on level, 7 pm, 1,017.2 millibars

millibars = 29.53in.

ed daily except Sundays, Jan-
uary, February, March and Good
Friday. Newspapers limited.

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